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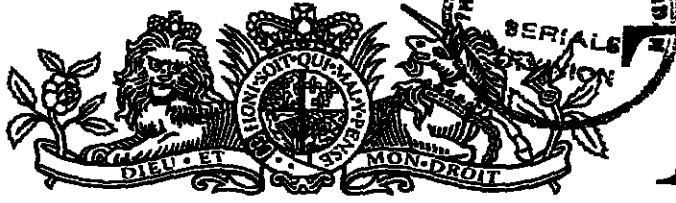
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SATURDAY JUNE 27 1998

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England win marred by 450 arrests

Riot police in clashes with drunken supporters before decisive match

FROM ADRIAN LEE IN LENS AND SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

MORE than 450 English football hooligans were arrested or expelled from France before England's 2-0 victory against Colombia last night.

Police mounted the biggest security operation of the World Cup tournament.

England's victory, with goals from Darren Anderton and David Beckham, saw them qualify for a second-round match against Argentina on Tuesday. Romania won the group after drawing with Tunisia 1-1, and now face Croatia.

The short cross-Channel journey to the match in Lens, northern France, attracted more than 50,000 fans. They included a large number of organised hooligans, many of whom flouted the alcohol ban and were behind outbreaks of sporadic violence in Lens.

Intoxicated fans clashed with French police in riot gear in the small mining town, whose 30,000 population was more than doubled for the day. There was also trouble in neighbouring Lille and in the Belgium port of Ostend.

Once again, the England fans made a mockery of their meagre ticket allocation of 4,500. Two thirds of the 41,000-capacity Felix Bollaert stadium was swathed in red and white. English flags were draped along the entire length of three sides of the ground. The Prince of Wales and Prince Harry, attending their first match of the tournament, were brought into the stadium by an underground tunnel, taking their seats ten minutes before kick-off.

There was a good atmo-



Alan Shearer, right, hugs scorer Darren Anderton

sphere inside the stadium where the announcer's confirmation that Michael Owen would start his first full World Cup game brought huge cheers. England's second goal encouraged one group of fans to begin a conga.

Earlier police spotters mingled with crowds at ports and stations to weed out known category C hooligans. In Dover Paul Dodd, 27, was arrested along with an 18-year-old youth on suspicion of theft of a bottle of gin.

Four men suspected of being members of the far-right group Combat 18, and a handful of category C hooligans were among 332 fans refused entry at Calais. Three category C hooligans, one with 27 convictions for violence, were turned back after sailing from Portsmouth to Le Havre.

Hundreds tried to beat the drink ban in the port and Lens from 8am yesterday, and on passenger ferries from 6am, by filling their cars with crates of beer and hiding bottles in their clothing. One car turned back contained four fans with a consignment of 600 bottles of beer and 16 bottles of vodka.

In Lens, fans drank openly in the streets from their own supplies, unchallenged by the police. Around 500 gathered around the Stade Felix-Bollaert during the afternoon before a number went on the rampage and pelted police with beer bottles and other missiles.

In Lille, where bars were open, fans clashed with police and local youths. Police used tear gas control the crowd and arrested 30 English fans and five others. Four people, were

slightly injured. Tim Hollis, the Assistant Chief Constable of South Yorkshire who heads the British police operation in France, said it had always been thought that the Colombia game, rather than the matches in Marseilles and Toulouse would attract the organised soccer thugs since it was in northern France.

There were fears that since none of the bars was open, and there were no facilities to watch the game on giant screens, trouble would flare among those with no tickets during the match. The Football Supporters Association advised those without tickets to head to another town to watch.

Back home the rush hour came early as people headed home or to local pubs to watch the game. AA Roadwatch said the roads were deserted by kick-off, and air travellers were kept abreast of the game with extra television screens at airports and regular updates by pilots on British airlines.

And at the rain-soaked Glastonbury festival musicians had to compete for attention with giant screens next to the main stage showing the game live.

Many police forces had more officers on duty than a normal Friday night should the enthusiasm of fans spill into the streets after the final whistle.

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David Beckham celebrating after scoring England's second goal against Colombia in Lens last night

Trimble is set to lead divided Ulster

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DAVID TRIMBLE'S Ulster Unionist Party last night looked likely to emerge as the biggest party in Northern Ireland's new assembly, but the Province's probable new First Minister will face opposition from Unionist opponents of the Good Friday peace accord both inside and outside his party.

With more than a quarter of the 108 seats decided, psephologists predicted that the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) would win 31 seats. John Hume's nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) would get 22, the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) 22, Sinn Fein 17, the centrist Alliance Party seven, the loyalist Progressive Unionist Party four, Robert McCartney's UK Unionist Party (UKUP) three and other parties two.

Numerically the SDLP led

the UUP after the first counts in all 18 constituencies. It had 22 per cent of the first preference votes, the UUP 21.3, the DUP 18.1, Sinn Fein 17.6, the Alliance 6.5 and the UKUP 2.5. Another UUP MP, William Thompson, said he would leave the party if it shared power with Sinn Fein.

Never before had a nationalist party topped a Province-wide poll. But, under the complicated election system of the single transferable vote, the SDLP's support did not translate into seats.

The anti-agreement Unionist parties, the DUP and UKUP, appeared to be falling short of the combined total of about 30 seats they needed to cause serious problems in the assembly. However, some of those elected on the UUP ticket also oppose the accord and could join them on key votes.

The bitter splits within Mr

IRA READY TO IDENTIFY GRAVES

The IRA is believed to be on the point of identifying the graves of about a dozen people it abducted and killed. The terrorist victims all disappeared between 1972 and 1980, but many appeals from their families for the location of their bodies to be pinpointed have been rejected. Reports in Dublin, though, said the IRA leadership

was ready to permit the remains to be returned. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, called on anyone with information about the "disappeared" to come forward to help those families to put the tragedy behind them. "This is a very, very sensitive issue. I don't think it would be in anyone's interest to comment," he said. Page 18

constituency. The DUP topped the poll in at least six of the 18 constituencies, and at one point Mr Paisley claimed Mr Trimble was finished as a political leader. "All over Ulster today the DUP is topping the poll. Dublin is sick. Mr Tony Blair is sick, his lies have caught up with him, and the sickest man of all is David Trimble," Mr Paisley said.

The UUP was expected to recover in subsequent counts as its candidates received "transfer" votes from other pro-accord parties under the complex single transferable vote system.

"There have been problems. We have not had the decisive vote we would have liked," Mr Trimble acknowledged. "We will have to drag behind us this dead weight of people who have difficulty moving into the future."

Vote transfers, page 18
Results, page 19

Hague's Mum relieves Ffion at bedside vigil

BY NICHOLAS WOOD



Stella Hague: sat in for Ffion at son's bedside

WILLIAM HAGUE'S mother, Stella, took over at his bedside from his wife, Ffion, shortly before the Tory leader underwent an operation for a painful and debilitating attack of sinusitis.

Mrs Hague, 70, and her husband, Nigel, drove 70 miles across Yorkshire last Tuesday to relieve their daughter-in-law, who had been caring for her husband for five days after he had been taken ill the previous Friday.

Ffion, director of operations at the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, had an appointment with Chris Smith, the Culture,

Media and Sport Secretary, in London on Wednesday. She was said to regard the meeting as unbreakable and travelled south that afternoon, returning home to Brough Park near Carrickbridge in North Yorkshire the next day. Her in-laws stepped into the breach, caring for their 37-year-old son, who was suffering from a temperature of 103F, unable to sleep and in severe pain from flu and blocked sinuses.

Last night Mr Hague, who is on a course of antibiotics, and is said to be feeling better, was recovering at home from an NHS operation to clear his nasal passages at Darlington Memorial Hospital on Thurs-

day. He hopes to be back in harness for Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday, and a speech to Eurosceptic businessmen on Friday.

The Conservative leader has cancelled many engagements since falling ill and the length of his illness has raised eyebrows among party MPs. Lord Blake, the Conservative historian, said Mr Hague appeared to have been off work sick for longer than any Tory leader since Winston Churchill, who suffered a stroke in the summer of 1953, but recovered to make a stirring speech at the party's autumn conference.

Dr Tom Stuttford, page 20

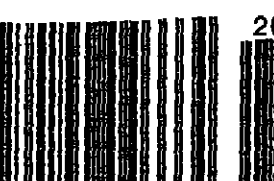


LET ME THROUGH I'M A SPIN DOCTOR!

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Graf defeated
After an inspired return to her beloved Wimbledon, overcoming a stubborn knee injury and personal problems, seven-times champion Steffi Graf was defeated in straight sets on a windy Centre Court by unseeded Natasha Zvereva for the first time in 18 encounters. Pages 42, 43

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 Gary Neville on England's performance

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 The Brits at Wimbledon
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 Richard Cork on the genius of PATRICK HERON

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 When Alzheimer's strikes the young

WEDNESDAY
 HARRISON FORD Love on a Pacific island

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 PLUS BEST FOR BOOKS

FRIDAY
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SATURDAY
 Make a break for the Three Tenors
 in the FREE glossy magazine

Invading army of fans beats drink ban

By STEPHEN FARRELL

ENGLAND'S invading army descended on France in their thousands yesterday in the biggest influx of English people into northern France since D-Day. English fans poured on to boats and Channel Tunnel trains and began a quest for alcohol that lasted from breakfast, beyond kick-off and until late in the night. Many were successful and evaded bans imposed by the French authorities. The longest day began with Kent police keeping a discreet watch on streams of red-and-white bearded fans boarding ferries. They passed information to four British police spotters at Calais.

Despite French pleas not to sell alcohol on board, it was freely available. P&O Stena banned passengers from buying cases of beer to take away, but allowed duty-free purchases of spirits and wine, and sold beer freely in its bars. SeaFrance holidaymakers travelling with their families were surprised to see fans being allowed to buy beer in 24-can packs, despite warnings that excess loads would be confiscated by French police on arrival.

Calais itself, like Lens, was dry for the day. The main railway station bar was shut, in common with many around Place d'Armes, and the streets and restaurants were nearly deserted. Café owners were visited by police from 9am and given stern warnings.

Squads of CRS police armed with guns and CS gas were on constant patrol. At the port itself, police stopped any car they deemed to be suspicious — in practice, any vehicle waving more than one flag or with conveniently large amounts of baggage and sleeping bags under which

drink could be hidden. One car loaded with 160 litres of beer was put straight back on the ferry, with the handful of Category C football hooligans. Most likely lads headed straight for EastEnders. Boozers and the other British-run superstores on the outskirts of town. Their owners, however, dared not defy the ban.

Dave Ward, the former Romford market trader who owns the 55,000 sq ft EastEnders, is furious at losing an estimated £100,000 takings, but shrugs philosophically. "The lawyers told us to shut down. If trouble broke out, they could point the finger at us. I'm just telling them to go to Dunkirk."

Many who found pallets blocking the entrance were angry at the inconvenience. Justin Pitt, one of five friends from Birmingham, protested: "We're not here to get lagging drunk. We are here to soak up the atmosphere. It's one of the only opportunities we will get to see a World Cup. The next one's in Japan — we aren't going there." He and the group then piled back into their Land Rover Discovery and headed for Dunkirk.

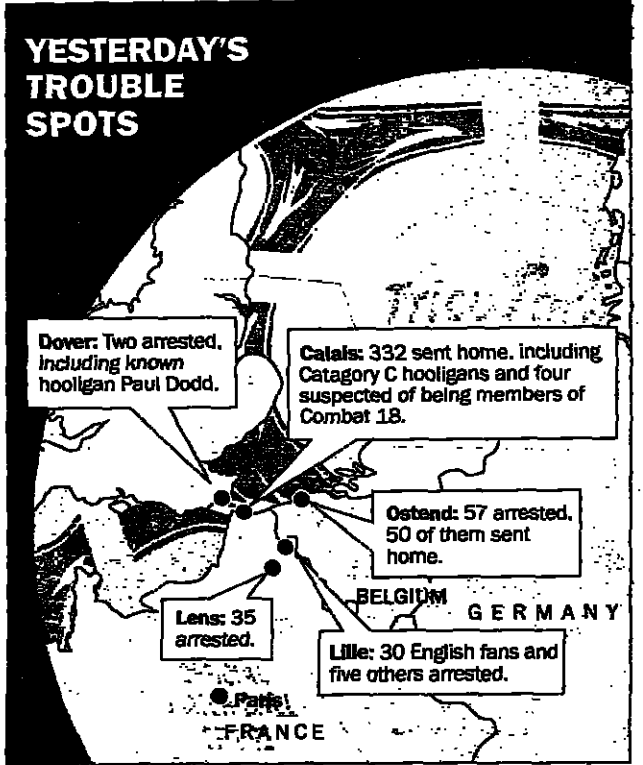
Like many other groups, however, they soon discovered that the so-called dry corridor from Calais to Lens extended exactly five miles, with bars in Les Attaques, the nearest village on the road to St Omer, openly selling bottles and draught beer.

This was no consolation to the hundreds of holidaymakers heading back to Britain who found themselves barred from stocking up on drink before embarking. Sheena Auwkit, 34, and George Carroll, 31, from Coventry, booked their day trip months ago and had already taken the day off work before they realised that it coincided with the England match. They too were forced to head for Dunkirk to stock up with duty-free.

Trevor Johnston, 45, a clothes buyer returning from the Czech Republic, was less sanguine. "Why is everything shut? Are England playing? I hope they get beaten 25-0." By midday some fans had already arrived in Lens, failed to find tickets, drink or giant screens, and were back in Calais on their way to catch a ferry home to watch the match on television in Britain. One grumbled: "No booze, no football, no atmosphere. What's the point?"



An England fan is arrested by police outside the stadium in Lens while others, below, spray beer at passers-by before the match yesterday



Unprepared Belgium counts invasion cost

FROM HELEN RUMBLOW IN OSTEND

OSTEND was cleaning up last night after a double English invasion. First violent English hooligans left a trail of damage along the port's main street, and then fans sacked bars and shops in search of more alcohol.

Shop and barkeepers huddled in groups amid their ruined premises, declaring themselves desperate to see the last of England fans. Even as glass fitters repaired damage caused by 150

English hooligans who ran amok down Langestraat in the early morning, gangs of England fans could be seen carrying crates of beer to cars.

But, 40 miles away from the England match in Lens, the port, duty free and supermarkets were turning a brisk trade in alcohol with fans on their way to the crucial game and those making raids across the open border to avoid the French ban on the sale of alcohol.

Barkeepers could not hide their disgust. Quintien Simoons, manager of

Le Dôme, said that an unruly mob of England fans massed in Café Chantant, taunting locals. "It was pure aggression. Once they turned from singing, they attacked everything in their way — the police, the shops, me."

"They grabbed everything they could and smashed windows with it. People rushed inside and we locked all our customers in for their own protection. The English used to be welcome, but we don't want this garbage. The police were totally unprepared. Anger towards English

people was tangible last night. They were refused entry to bars, football was not showing on televisions and police advised them to watch the football in their hotels."

Belgian police were on alert, anticipating further violence. All 51 hooligans arrested were sent back to England and others were escorted under police guard to Lens.

Roland van Reusel, a police spokesman, said: "The repercussions here of the World Cup in France are enormous."

Absent fathers may have to pay 25% of salary

By JILL SHERMAN AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

ABSENT fathers could have to pay 25 per cent of their salary to former spouses or partners under a reform of the Child Support Agency to be published within two weeks.

Fathers who do not live with their children will be expected to pay a flat rate of 15 per cent of their take-home pay for their first child, and 5 per cent for the second and third child, under the proposals now being studied by the Tony Blair. But the formula will be fiercely opposed by parents' organisations who have argued that a flat-rate payment would be unfair and that absent fathers would have to pay more.

The long-awaited Green Paper on the Child Support Agency is being finalised by Downing Street after months of uncertainty over whether the agency would survive. Labour MPs have been clamouring for its demise after its failure to chase up thousands of fathers who were not paying anything for their children.

The reforms, designed to simplify the current complicated system of calculating child maintenance, have met with resistance from the Treasury which is concerned about start-up costs. Under the plans, drawn up by Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, and Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, extra staff will have to be employed to chase up the thousands of fathers who have not been reached before.

But in the longer term costs will drop as more payments are made. Fathers who failed to pay up would have the money deducted directly under pay as you earn.

The Prime Minister is also said to be concerned about the number of losers under the new scheme. Government sources concede that there will be an element of rough justice about the proposals, with several people paying more than before while others would gain.

The National Association for Child Support Action, the influential campaign group which represents several thousand separated parents, is expected to vote against the fixed-rate formula at its annual general meeting tomorrow.

The organisation believes that a simplified formula will not work because it will not be able to take into account all the individual circumstances of a family.

Many fathers will be worse off under the new system. A 38-year-old father on £36,000 a year said yesterday that he pays £395 a month for his two children, aged 10 and 9. Under the new system he would pay £429.29 a month.

Whitehall sources stressed that the Green Paper was expected to be a consultative document with a number of options, although the flat-rate levy is the favoured plan.

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Wives and sweethearts join players

ANDRÉ CAMARA



A château hotel with four-poster beds was last night's rendezvous for the England team. Peter Foster reports

ENGLAND'S footballers had a welcome distraction from the beautiful game last night when their wives and girlfriends travelled together to France to spend a night with their men.

But for David Beckham, the Manchester United midfielder who steps out with the pop star Victoria Adams — Fosh Spice — there was no tryst: she is away in America touring with the Spice Girls.

For the lucky ones, the

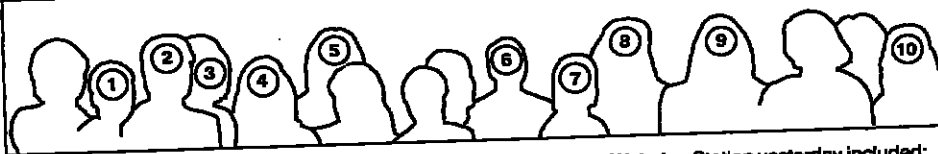
Football Association had hired a château hotel near St Omer, complete with four-poster beds, so that the players could spend time relaxing before returning to training at La Baule.

For the last three weeks the England camp has been off-limits for wives and girlfriends, leaving the players to playing table-tennis and computer games in between practice sessions and team talks.

Dressed in all their finery,

the women posed for the cameras at Waterloo Station and then boarded a Eurostar train. They were led by Paul Ince's wife Claire, 29, who married the midfielder, her childhood sweetheart, eight years ago. Only the television presenter Dani Behr, who is dating Les Ferdinand after splitting up with the Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs, seemed comfortable with the flash bulbs.

Standing out from the



The footballers' wives and girlfriends before boarding the Eurostar at Waterloo Station yesterday included: 1 Debbie Rodgers (David Seaman) 2 Claire Ince 3 Mandy Batty 4 Claire Froggatt (Paul Scholes) 5 Vanessa Shean (Glenn Hoddle) 6 Lorraine Merson 7 Nicola Keown 8 Kate Randall (Darren Anderton) 9 Victoria Edwards (Steve McManaman) 10 Louise Bonsall (Michael Owen)

crowd with her shoulder-length brown hair was Michael Owen's girlfriend Louise Bonsall, 17. Her romance with the young striker was rekindled recently, having begun at 13. According to a friend, the couple are "mad for each

other". Owen has promised to marry Louise, a student, if England win the World Cup.

Darren Anderton's girlfriend Kate Randall, 24, came dressed in an elegant trouser suit to support her boyfriend, whom she met in 1996. Steve

McManaman's girlfriend of four years, Victoria, a trainee solicitor who studied law in Berlin, was also present. David Seaman's fiancée, Debbie Rodgers, a 37-year-old PR consultant, was more casual in trousers and jacket.

The couple, who plan to marry in July, met while she was working in Arsenal's marketing department.

Glenn Hoddle's friend, Vanessa Shean, a former BA stewardess, was also in the party. She is the wife of the property tycoon Jeff Shean, who is suing her for divorce. Hoddle left his wife, Anne, of 18 years last October.

Shying away from the cameras was Mandy Batty, the 27-year-old wife of David, who has a reputation in the squad as a family man. Lorraine Merson arrived travelling light in a summery lilac suit with her hair scraped back.

She and her husband Paul, who has recovered from bouts of alcoholism and cocaine addiction, have been together since they were 15. They have three boys.

Paul Scholes's girlfriend, Claire Froggatt, 22, was also on the train. The couple have been going out with each other since they were 16. She recently said of her man: "To me, he is just the really nice guy who has always been there for me."

The wives and girlfriends should not be too much of a distraction for the players: they will all be on their way home by this afternoon.

Life on hold as nation watched and waited

BY PETER FOSTER

THE country held its breath last night as England's footballers played their most important match for eight years. Millions of fans, armed with enough pizza to cover 84 Wembley stadiums and untold quantities of beer, watched and waited, leaving streets and shops deserted.

London's West End was uncharacteristically quiet as traffic dropped by up to 60 per cent, according to the AA. More than 20 million fans tuned in to find out if England would beat Colombia and progress to the next stage of the World Cup.



their pilots to pass on to passengers, and an estimated 16 million fewer telephone calls than normal were made during the match.

Organisers of evening race meetings at Newcastle, Stratford and Goodwood provided extra television screens so their punters could have the best of both worlds.

At the Glastonbury Festival, which opened last night, the venue's big screen showed the football while the bands competed for the attention of the public on the stages.

Cinemas also faced up to life under the World Cup hysteria, and rescheduled their main screenings around the 8pm

kick-off in Lens. Virgin cinemas announced that first-night screenings of *Object of My Affection* starring Jennifer Aniston, the *Friends* actress, would not clash with the football. The company also opened several of its screens to youth clubs as a venue to watch the game.

Pizza Hut, which has more than 500 outlets, estimated that they would have sold 200,000 pizzas by the end of the night. Taking a 9in pizza as the basis of their calculations, this equates to enough dough to cover 84 Wembley football pitches.

At supermarkets such as Sainsbury's, where beer sales were up 150 per cent, the aisles were empty after fans had stocked up for the game.

Long sections of the M25 were at a standstill at 6pm as commuters hurrying home early were stuck in the usual Friday night congestion. Conditions were particularly bad in Essex between Waltham Abbey and Brentwood. The AA said: "It is really very bad news indeed. It is the sheer volume of traffic."

For non-football fans there were some fringe benefits: West End musicals such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Saturday Night Fever* and *Cats* all reported spare seats last night.

When the Great War stopped for a match

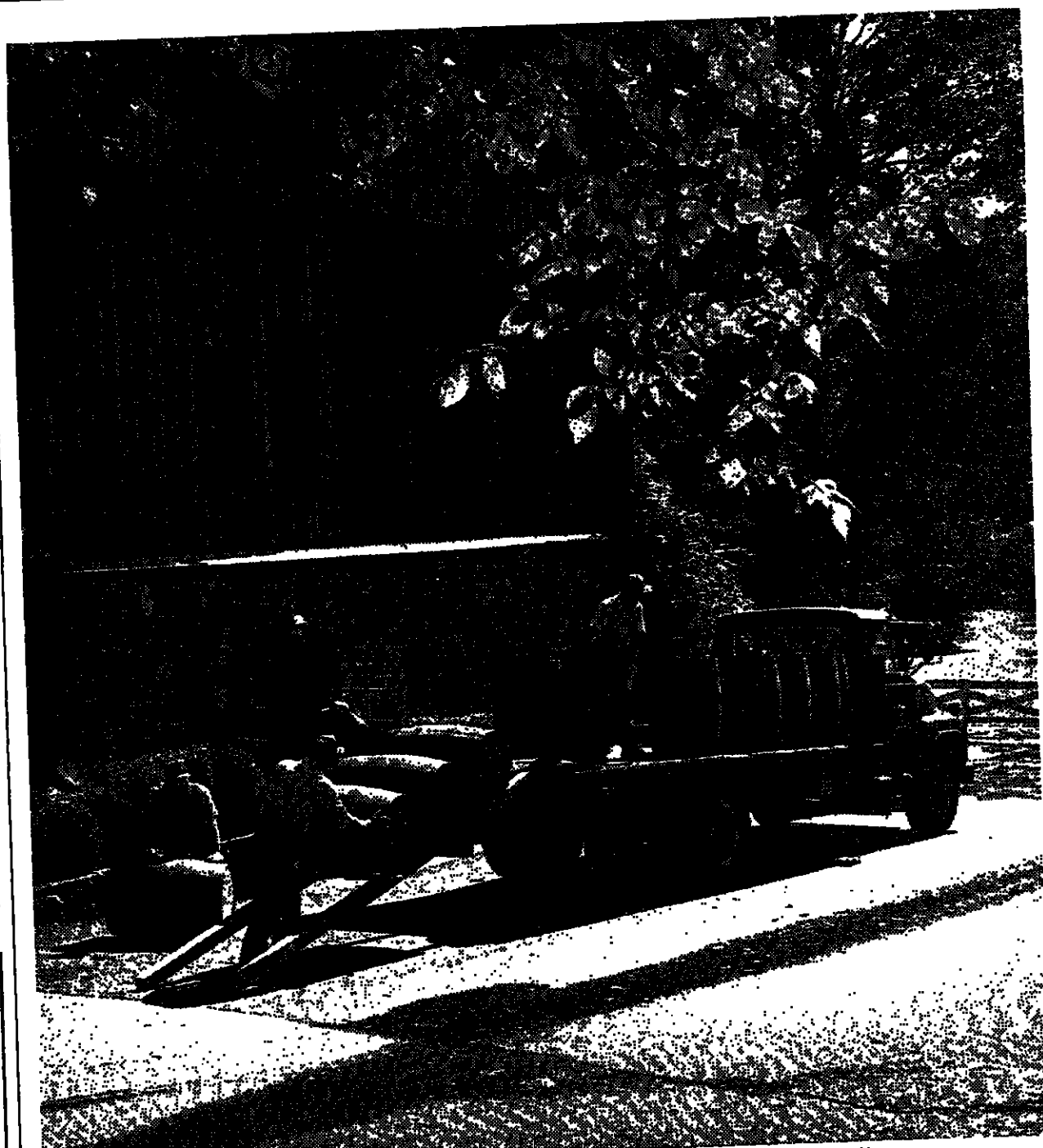
BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 83 years ago, an England football team fighting in a corner of a foreign field in northern France defeated German opponents 3-2. It was Christmas Day 1914 when both sides in the grim trench warfare agreed a ceasefire. Legend has it that A Company of the 2nd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers challenged a Saxon unit to a football match.

The soldiers' opposing trenches were in the area of Le Touquet, a village northeast of Arras on the border between France and Belgium. At that time this was the front line on the Western Front. The teams used an old tin as a football. There were no penalties in the 3-2 victory.

Last night, 21 miles from the 1914 football match, England played Colombia in another battle at Lens. In 1914 the fighting stopped for the impromptu match.

Last night, English football "supporters" who had never known a war in Western Europe continued their own brand of fighting while England prepared to play.



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He is Motty and he is on his way to the World Cup final.

Last night, he continued his impressive run in France 98 with a game against Colombia. Not that John Motson is against anyone. Motty is English but neutral, a contradiction in terms if ever I heard one. Whenever England attacked, there was an excitement in Motty's voice that was quite distinct from the anxiety that conveyed itself when the Colombians pressed forward. When England scored their first goal, Motty provided the classic fans' reaction: "Can they hold the lead?"



On a night of high drama, Peter Barnard marvels as the BBC's seasoned performer talks his way to victory

Increase it, more like. But never mind the score, let's get back to what matters. The difference between the player behind the microphone and the players behind the ball was that, before the kick-off, Motty had already won the group, the quarter-finals and the semis. Motty had been given the nod to commentate on the final from Niall Sloane, the Glenn Hoddle of the BBC's World Cup coverage, who had to choose between Motson and Barry Davies.

Sheringham or Owen, Motson or Davies: these are momentous matters, with Hoddle having an easier task than Sloane because

you can hardly bring Davies off the bench at half-time. Reports of rows and coin-tossing in the BBC training camp are dismissed as nonsense: Davies did the 1994 final, so Motson was certain to get this year's.

Motty was in good form against Colombia. He picked up the ball and kept it close to his feet apart from the occasional short pass to the summariser, Trevor Brooking. Motson is a solid performer, in the English tradition: nothing flash. His knowledge is routinely described as encyclopaedic. Rubbish: he knows a lot more than that.

A Motty goal immediately sparks memories of another

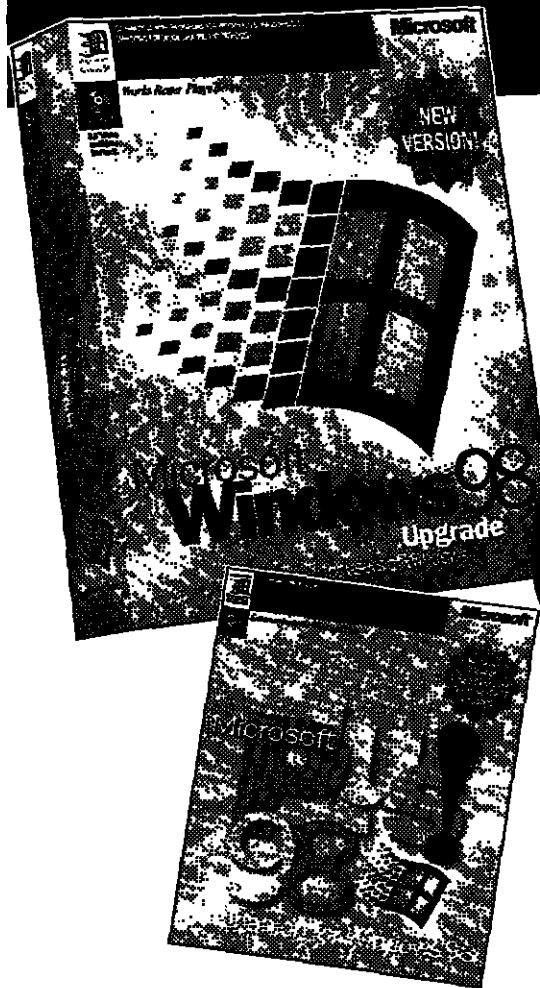
Motty goal, scored anywhere between two days and four decades ago, on a different continent, in thick fog. Even the England switch to red shirts had Motty spotting the omen: England played in red for the 1966 victory. A new and alarming element last night was Motty's tentative excursion into cornflake-packet philosophy: "We seem to have been waiting for this match all our lives." Not just this match. The importance to Motty of his unbroken run towards the World Cup final cannot be over-estimated. At least 20 million people watched in Britain last night and that excludes swaying hordes in pubs and clubs, who are beyond the reach of Barb, the audience researchers. That compares with the 13.5 million who voted New Labour in May last year. Of course that was only politics, whereas this was marginally closer to real life.

Motty 1, Blairy 0.

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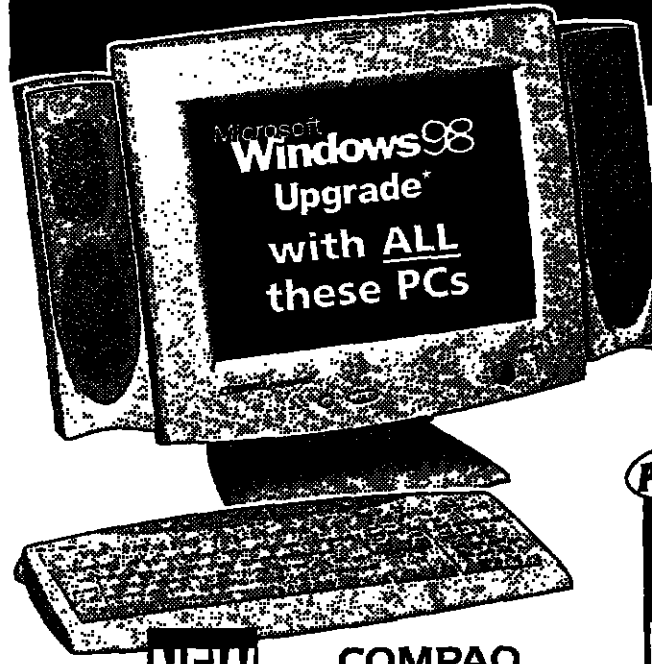
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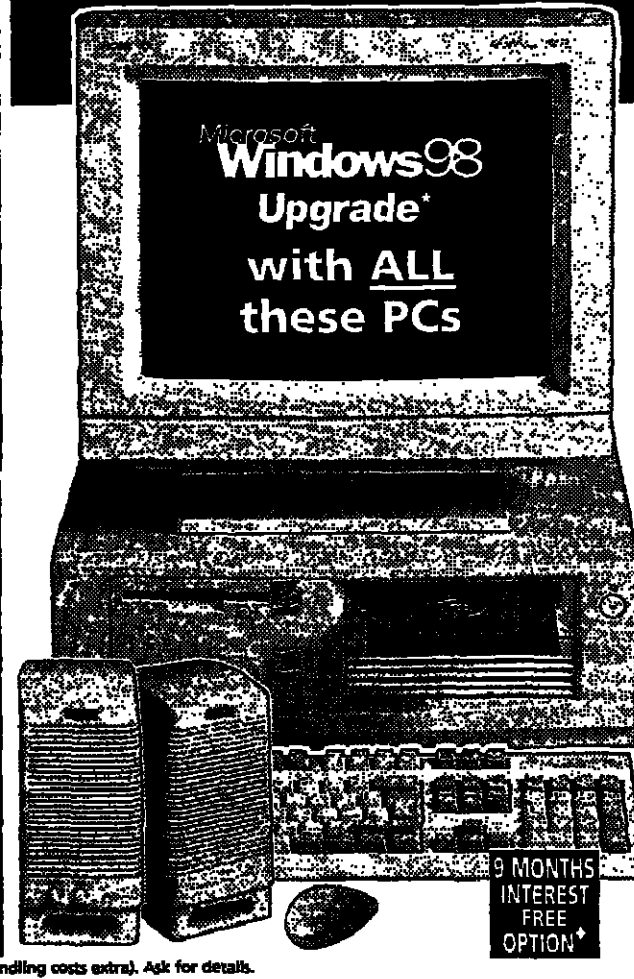
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June 27 1998

Smuggled Viagra is targeted by drugs team

By Russell Jenkins

A SPECIAL inquiry team, dubbed the V-men, has been set up by the Medicines Control Agency to investigate black-market trading in Viagra, the anti-impotence drug.

Health officials have been alarmed that the drug, which is not licensed in this country, is being offered for sale on the Internet, mail-order advertisements or direct mailshots.

Doctors in private clinics have also reported that they are being offered supplies of Viagra anonymously over the telephone at inflated black market prices. There are fears that the publicity surrounding the drug, which is said to turn men of 60 into sexual athletes, has created huge demand from men who wish to use it recreationally.

The inquiry unit, established within the agency's enforcement division, aims to stamp out illegal activity while sales are still in their infancy. Initially they are looking at 15 separate cases.

Like the FBI's G-men, who upheld prohibition in America, the new force has the power to seize contraband Viagra and prosecute offenders. Under the 1969 Medicines Act, selling Viagra is a criminal offence punishable by a two-year prison sentence or an

unlimited fine. Doctors have repeatedly said that Viagra is not a sex-aid but a medicine which can be dangerous if taken without proper precautions. Several Deaths have already been reported in the US.

Viagra has received FDA approval in the US. But it has not yet been licensed here or anywhere else in the European Union. It can only be sold or supplied on a "named patient" basis to fulfil the needs of an individual patient. A doctor prescribing a drug in these circumstances has to take personal responsibility for the outcome.

A spokeswoman for the Medicines Control Agency said that if wholesalers advertisements can be accessed in Britain they are breaking the law. She said: "We need to work with the companies to achieve a consensus. We are going to try to persuade first rather than leap into instant prosecutions."

Private clinics are reporting approaches from black marketers looking to make a swift profit. Matt O'Neill, general manager of the United Kingdom Men's Clinics, based in Manchester, said that his company was approached over the telephone by a man offering to sell 3,000 tablets and asked if they were interested.

Mr O'Neill said: "Everyone at the clinic was absolutely staggered by the telephone call. The drug seems to be becoming much too freely available and this makes it open to abuse. It does have the potential to be a recreational drug. I have even heard of Viagra described as a 'popper'." Dr Peter Fink, secretary of Manchester GPs representative council, said: "If people are going to buy Viagra they should be aware they are taking a risk."

Diary, page 22



This is the camera which two schoolgirls said they had used to photograph fairies at the bottom of their garden and which has now been saved for the nation (Paul Wilkinson writes). There was intense foreign interest in it, including an offer from Mel Gibson, the actor who starred in a film about the infamous hoax.

Fairy-hoax cameras to weave spell for nation

had used was presented to the National Museum of Photography, Film and TV in Bradford.

A Cameo camera which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle gave to Elsie, 15, and Frances, nine, to take further pictures was also given to the museum. He had their original pictures of the "fairies" published in the Strand magazine.

and in 1922, he based his book *The Coming of the Fairies* on them.

Geoffrey Crawley, the owner of the cameras and the man who finally proved the pictures were a hoax, had intended selling them at auction in March. Enthusiasts had feared that renewed interest in the story, fuelled by *Fairy Tale - A True Story* starring

Gibson, would attract overseas collectors.

However, Mr Crawley agreed to accept £14,000 in a private sale after an appeal was launched by *Amateur Photographer* magazine and the *Telegraph and Argus* in Bradford. The public donated £2,500; the rest came from Olympus and Canon, the camera makers, and Jessops, the Leicester photographic retailer.

Gibson had offered almost £20,000, but Mr Crawley wanted the cameras to stay in England. He acquired them as part of his investigation into how the plates were created.



IT PUTS A WHOLE NEW MEANING ON 'MR BIG'

Woman foils kidnapper's ransom demand

By Helen Johnstone

A WOMAN was last night recovering after escaping from a kidnapper who had demanded a ransom from her boyfriend, a bank manager.

Lorna August, 43, a shop assistant, was forced from her home in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, yesterday morning, after her boyfriend, Kevin Paxton, had left for work.

The kidnapper knocked on the door before forcing his

way in and seizing the shocked woman. She was marched out of the house to a waiting car. It is understood she was then driven for about half-an-hour to a wood on the outskirts of the town and pulled from the vehicle before being tied up by the hands and feet.

Warning her not to move, the kidnapper drove to a phone box where he called Mr Paxton, an assistant manager in the High Wycombe branch of the National Westminster

Bank, and demanded an undisclosed amount of cash. Mr Paxton ignored the kidnapper's demands and called the police.

Meanwhile, Miss August managed to release herself before staggering several hundred yards to a nearby house where she raised the alarm. Thames Valley Police said she was later taken to a police station where she was interviewed for clues to the identity of her kidnapper, who was last

night still being sought. Detectives were also studying tapes of his telephone conversation with Mr Paxton.

The hunt, involving a police helicopter, was being coordinated by Detective Chief Superintendent David McWhirter.

A police spokesman later confirmed that no money had been handed over and the victim was uninjured, although badly shocked.

A spokesman for the National Westminster Bank said the bank, which was closed for business yesterday, would open today.

Neighbours of the couple last night expressed surprise over the kidnapping. Many said they had not seen or heard anything.

David Vowles, 64, who shares a communal garden with the couple, said the first he knew of the incident was when he spoke to two police officers.

Dr Partison, working with Dr Harriet Gross of Loughborough University, based her research on 36 replies to detailed questionnaires, returned by 24 men and 12 women. The researchers said they had been surprised at the lack of information available on what it was like to be pregnant at work.

Bias by employers 'deters pregnant women'

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

THE Government's drive to get more mothers back to work is being undermined by the negative attitudes of employers, who often write off pregnant women as too emotional and woolly-headed to do their jobs properly, according to research.

Dr Helen Partison, a psychologist at the University of Birmingham medical school, said that many women decided not to go back to work after childbirth as a direct result of the discrimination they experienced while pregnant.

In a paper to the British Psychological Society annual conference in Birmingham yesterday, Dr Partison said that although the majority of women in Britain were in paid employment during their pregnancy, there remained a strong workplace prejudice against them, with many employers and co-workers expressing the view that they were physically and mentally incapacitated.

"There is evidence that pregnant women are undervalued as workers. Part of the reason for this is likely to be beliefs about their effectiveness as workers held by employers and colleagues," she said.

Dr Partison said that what was potentially more damaging, however, was moral disapproval of pregnant workers. "People who saw pregnant workers negatively also tended to disapprove of young mothers working. They considered them to be selfish women who were putting the safety of their child at risk."

In reality, she added, pregnant women were more at risk at home than they were at work, where their environment was controlled by health and safety rules.

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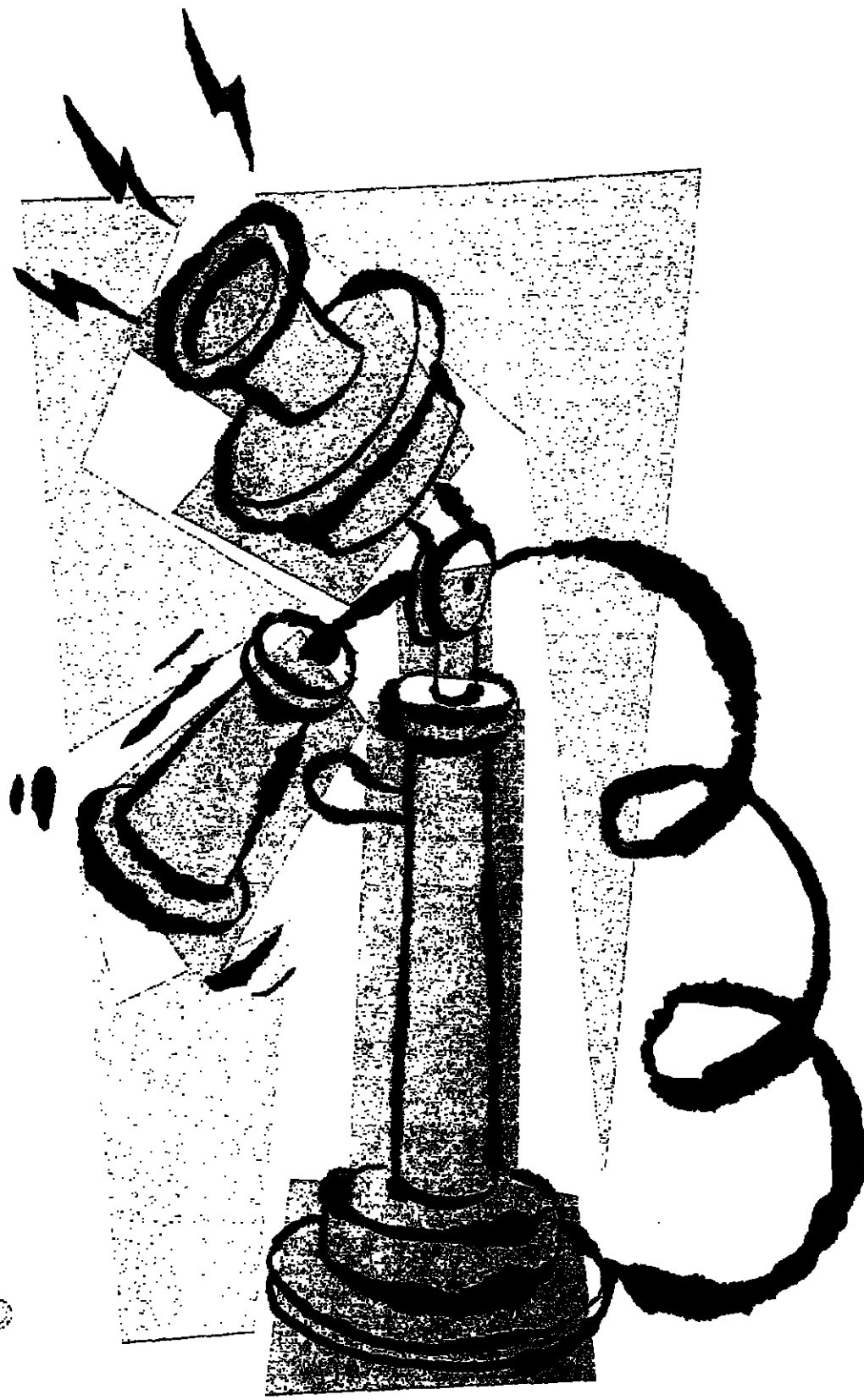
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The lifeline that helped to inspire Diana Nurses

PAT SMITH has no idea how she would have coped with her daughter's multiple illnesses without the nurses from the Lifetime project. She sums up it up herself, every time she inadvertently refers to them as the "lifeline project".

The Diana Nurses, to be set up as memorial to the Princess of Wales, is being modelled on the Lifetime project, which has helped hundreds of seriously-ill children spend less of their lives in hospital in the last six years.

Clare Smith, 16, is exactly the type of patient they will help. She is lucky to live in Bath, where the Lifetime project offers one of the country's few teams of specialist community nurses caring for children with life-threatening illnesses.

The other respect in which Clare Smith can be considered fortunate is that she is adored by her adoptive parents. But even a mother as devoted and experienced as Mrs Smith, who has fostered 160 children in 30 years, could not have managed without outside assistance.

Mrs Smith, 56, already had her hands full looking after Clare, who is mentally and physically handicapped as the result of a genetic disorder. Then a year ago Clare suffered a serious brain haemorrhage. Mrs Smith said: "She

The Lifetime project in Bath allows seriously-ill children to be cared for at home when the only alternative is hospital, writes Simon de Bruxelles

woke up in the middle of the night screaming. I rushed into her room but she was barely with us." For 16 days Clare lay in a coma, not expected to live. Fortunately the prognosis was wrong, as it had been when the Smiths took her in at the age of three weeks for what doctors said would be "terminal" care.

Now Clare is making her second miraculous recovery, but when she returned home after the stroke it was as though the clock had been turned back. "She was a baby again," said Mrs Smith. "She couldn't move or feed herself. Everything had to be done for her. To bathe her we had to put her on a rack over a plasterer's bath and wash her down using watering cans."

"The nurses have been my lifeline. At one point they were coming in every day to see Clare. It is not just the medical advice they have been able to give, but the fact there were there to talk to and tell us what to expect." Clare has now begun to communicate again using sign language, and can walk short distances.

Mo Day, from Radstock near Bath, is another mother who could not have coped without Lifetime's help. A chromosome deficiency meant her seven-year-old son Sam was born with a large part of his brain missing. She said: "It is only because of the regular visits from the nurses that we can keep him at home."

Mary Lewis, one of two full-time nurses working at Lifetime, said: "We can help children stay at home when the only alternative would be hospital. Not only can we perform routine procedures, such as taking blood samples, we can show parents how to administer intravenous drips or put in nasal feeding tubes, which means they can lead relatively normal lives."

The Lifetime team also includes a psychiatrist, who pays particular attention to the needs of the parents and siblings. The Bath project found four times as many children suffering life-threatening, non-malignant conditions as previous studies had suggested. There are now 160 children on Lifetime's books.



Mary Lewis with Sam Day: "We can help seriously-ill children stay at home"

Locals want to run 'Dianaville' out of town

By DANIEL MCGRODY

CRITICS predict a summer of misery when what they call "Dianaville" opens for business today.

The rumble of articulated lorries delivering stage equipment for tonight's Diana Memorial Concert at Althorp has already signalled the beginning of the summer deluge for many of Earl Spencer's neighbours.

For the next eight weeks all signs on the motorways lead to the earl's Northamptonshire estate. His neighbours say it will ruin their rural idyll.

Most are reluctant to speak out publicly because the earl ordered them not to speak to journalists. As he owns most of the properties for miles around, it is understandable that rebellion is so muted. Mary Taylor, who has lived near by in Great Brington for 38 years, said: "We see this as a trial run of what we will have to put up with for years to come. We are changing from a rural backwater to a tourist trap. Like the lord of the manor, the earl won't let us voice our concerns."

Dissenters are also nervous of criticising the plans for Althorp for fear they will be accused of belittling the Princess's memory. One estate worker said yesterday: "The whole character of this place will change and to say otherwise is foolish. What we don't know is just how bad it will be."

The first 15,000 visitors will

negotiate road blocks, parking bans and bouncers to get to tonight's televised open-air concert. A tented village for performers such as Sir Cliff Richard, Lesley Garrett and Chris de Burgh was yesterday sinking into the mud.

The summer season officially opens on Wednesday for the 150,000 ticket holders wanting to tour the Diana museum. Portable lavatories, souvenir shops and makeshift car parks have already been added to Althorp's heritage in readiness.

The earl gave residents

IN WEEKEND

The house Diana called home

from half a dozen surrounding villages a sneak preview of what he has done but only on the understanding they signed a gagging order. One elderly resident of Little Brington said: "It's not right that we can't say what we think. What the earl means when he says 'don't talk to the press' is 'don't say anything bad'."

Fastidious parish councils have banned mobile fast-food stands from their hedgerows. This may help to preserve the rural idyll but it also means the only source of refreshment will now be in the earl's cafeterias on the estate.

Setback in lung cancer case

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LUNG cancer victims have hit a new hurdle in bringing the first action in Britain against cigarette companies after the High Court ruled that if they win, they will recover only a proportion of their costs.

The ruling by Mr Justice Wright earlier this week at a pre-trial hearing puts at risk the group action by 54 people who are seeking to sue Imperial Tobacco and Gallahers. The action is being brought by

Leigh Day & Co on a "no win, no fee" basis, which means that the lawyers are paying all the upfront costs.

If they win, they can double their fees. But if they lose, then the cancer patients are liable for costs and could in theory be pursued by the tobacco companies to bankruptcy.

The judge ruled that if 80 per cent of the cases, for example, are successful, then the tobacco companies would

have to pay 80 per cent of the overall costs.

But lawyers for the victims argue that the "common costs" in the action — those relating to generic issues central to all cases — should be spread across all the victims and should be paid by the tobacco companies for plaintiffs who lose or pull out.

The plaintiffs are now to take the issue to the Court of Appeal.

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GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL '98

THE YOUNGER VIEW

STEVE MURCATROYD



Lottie Moggach, who laments the Volvo invasion

REMEMBER that washing powder advert on television, around this time last year? The one that featured a teenage boy coming home after Glastonbury with a blissful smile on his face and a rucksack full of mud-caked T-shirts. His mother looked pointedly at the bag; he shrugged sheepishly, but instead of admonishing him, she just smiled and said: "Of course, in my day we didn't wear any clothes."

While sonny boy looks understandably horrified, he actually got off lightly — at least mum had the sense to realise that such heady days were well in her past. Middle-aged people — actually, anyone over 30 — should take her as an example, and limit themselves to "in my day..." reminiscences rather than join the alarmingly large numbers of those who actually come to Glastonbury.

In the four years I have been to the festival, the number of Volvos increases, numbing the spirits of those of us arriving primed for outrageous hedonism. Surely the point of Glastonbury is to get away from parent-type people who drive estate cars and have proper jobs and

Spirit of youth takes on mud and middle age

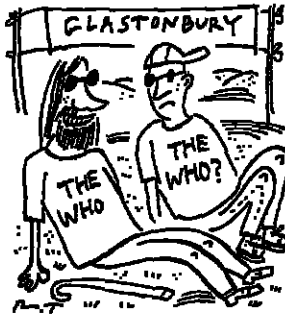
BY MARK HENDERSON

FESTIVAL fans arriving at Glastonbury yesterday faced an old foe after downpours turned much of the site to mud.

Boggy conditions backstage forced organisers to stop traffic not essential for performances from entering the site for several hours.

But for some younger music-lovers there was a more menacing enemy — the number of thirty and fortysomethings whose presence, it was claimed, was threatening the spirit of youthful hedonism that has become the Glastonbury hallmark.

There were complaints that the £90 ticket price and a bill featuring such old stagers as Bob Dylan, Taj Mahal and Tony Bennett had alienated the event's traditionally young



and hip audience. The middle-aged and respectable, keen to relive youthful adventures, have been coming to the increasingly famous festival in larger numbers as rising costs put off those with more hair and less money.

"Everyone has a right to come here, but you're seeing more and more parents coming and they aren't all ageing

hippies either," said Jane Taylor, 19, from Nottingham. "Lots of my friends couldn't afford to come, and others have gone over the fence for the same reason. It's a shame when you see execs who don't really care all over the place."

Older visitors were unapologetic. "I've been coming for years, I love the atmosphere," said Mike Smith, a 43-year-old solicitor from London. "I'm looking forward to the latest bands as well as the oldies — Pulp and Catatonia as well as Dylan. I like mingling with the young, so I suppose there's an element of not being a grown-up." He has no plans to see 71-year-old Tony Bennett.

For Gareth Hughes, 45, a psychologist from Llanidloes, Mid Wales, taking his wife and two young children, the event was his first festival for



Life under canvas did not stop one music fan from applying the final touches yesterday

20 years. "It's a bit wet but we're loving it," he said. "I'm reliving my youth with my family, I suppose — my last rock festival was Reading in '78. I think the headliners were Status Quo. Squeeze definitely played and there was lots of punk. I'm amazed at the size of it here. It's huge, and the

atmosphere is so friendly, all very different to 20 years ago. You do see more families these days, that's for sure."

Jason Holmes, spokesman for the festival, diplomatically refused to take sides. He said the festival had always attracted a mixed-age audience, which was one of its unique

features. "There's been more of a fuss this year because we've got Dylan and Tony Bennett, but we've always had a wide cross-section of artists and fans here. We don't just want lots of indie kids, because it's for everyone. Think about it this way, if you came to the first festival aged

LOTTIE MOGGACH

ARE YOU TOO OLD FOR GLASTONBURY?

- Which is the odd one out?
Shack, Gomez, Marlon, Turtle, Mago, Carré, Tortoise, Placebo
- Is Robbie Williams
a) Cheeky, chubby chap from Take That
b) That bloke engaged to Nicky from All Saints
c) Brilliant
- How much does a ticket for Glastonbury cost?
a) £32.00
b) £80.00
c) Ten shillings
- When you dance do you
a) Remove clothing and make wavy patterns with your fingers
b) Fold your arms, and occasionally jerk your right leg
c) Do clever breakdancing movements and say "Yo"
- Is Beatley Rhythm Ace
a) A form of natural contraception
b) A luxury car
c) Two blokes from Birmingham

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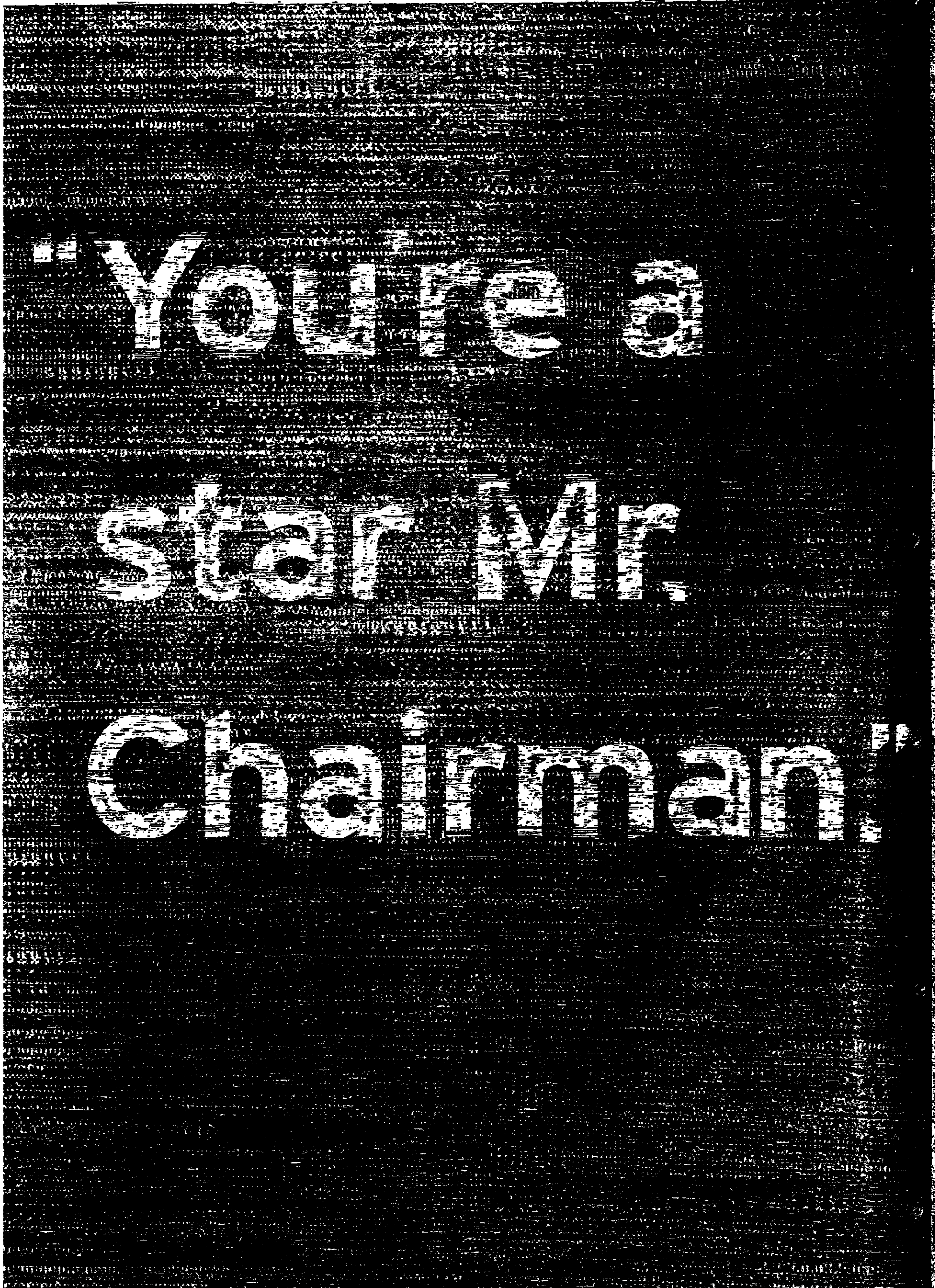
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GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL 98



Away from the rock stages a Tai Chi class gets under way and a Hare Krishna group provides alternative musical entertainment as the crowds arrive

The weather brought out the entrepreneurial spirit as stall-holders sold piles of boots, raincoats and matching trousers. Some in the crowds merely improvised with bin bags, worn with holes ripped to accommodate arms and heads or wrapped round feet. Others were fully kitted out. Emma Soane, 29, a psychologist from London, was in Gore-Tex trousers and coat. "I've given up trying to look cool at these things," she said. "I don't care what I look like as long as I'm not wet."

I WAS young once. And it wasn't even that long ago. To an 18-year-old, 36 may seem ancient. But to a 36-year-old, the teenage years feel like an eye-blink away. So it's pretty insulting to be told that I, along with my fellow thirtysomethings, are ruining the spirit of Glastonbury.

The spirit of Glastonbury? I can tell Lottie a thing or two about the spirit of Glastonbury. I have been going to the festival almost every summer for 17 years. I do realise that, if it were not for the venue, this reaction would make me sound like a splenic colonel. But it was our generation that created what Glastonbury is today. It is Lottie's that is threatening the fragile equilibrium on which it survives. In my first year, in 1982, Glastonbury was an intimate festival. We camped in the same field as the main stage. You could wander up to the front, watch a band and wander back. Now, thanks to the teenagers and twentysomethings who have invaded, the festival numbers some 100,000 people in 800 acres. If you want to see a headline band, you have to walk for half an hour from your tent, fight through crowds and jostle for a position from which you can see anything at

all. Even old hippies can be traditionalist when it suits them: Glastonbury's just not the same as it was. But now that I have children trailing along, I'm happy to indulge their enthusiasms instead. You are likely to find me in the kids' field, with its merry-go-round, helter-skelter, bouncy castles and trampolines. I'll be heading up to the Green Fields, which are calmer than the main drag, with their teepee village, "sacred space" and stone circle. There's an enormous climbing structure for children too. We'll check out some world music, some jazz and a few of the smaller, more esoteric stages. The youngsters can keep "Babylon" - the big field with the main stage, the big bands, the crowds and the litter. We'll be happier in Zion.

MARY ANN SIEGHART

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ARE YOU TOO OLD FOR GLASTONBURY?

6 What's your reaction to Tony Bennett, who sings this weekend?
 a) Has-been old crooner
 b) Lounge icon
 c) Tony who?

7 What is the uncoolest thing to say when watching a happening band?
 a) Wow, man, dig that bassline
 b) Don't you think Pulp's latest is so, like, commercial?
 c) They're mighty

8 Your festival clothing of choice is:
 a) Trainers, combat trousers and mini-T
 b) Birkenstocks and Led Zep T-shirt
 c) Farah slacks and nylon shirt

Answers:
 1. Turtle is a marine reptile, the rest are bands playing at Glastonbury this weekend (correct answer, score 1, incorrect, score 3)
 2 Score: 3 Score: 4 Score: 5 Score: 6 Score: 7 Score: 8 Score:
 a) 3 a) 2 a) 3 a) 2 a) 1 a) 2
 b) 2 b) 1 b) 3 b) 1 b) 2 b) 3
 c) 1 c) 3 c) 2 c) 1 c) 3 c) 1

Your score:
 More than 20: You probably still listen to King Crimson. Stay home, old timer.
 10-20: Your festival days are numbered. Go, but leave the Range Rover at home.
 Less than 10: Glastonbury belongs to you. But you already knew that. Enjoy!

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
Agony of my daughter's illness



On March 21 this year, I was due to host an open day at the headquarters of the National Meningitis Trust in Gloucestershire. Instead, by a grim twist of fate, I was 700 miles away, in a darkened Spanish hospital room, at the bedside of my daughter Lucy. She was in a coma with meningitis...

Andrew Harvey, newscaster and president of the National Meningitis Trust — in *News Review*, *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Girls used false ID to buy death fall vodka

Millfield sixth formers supplied drink for 14-year-old who plunged from roof, reports John O'Leary



Martin: whole school profoundly affected

TWO sixth-formers using fake identification bought the vodka drunk by the 14-year-old Millfield schoolgirl who fell to her death from a dormitory roof, the school's headmaster disclosed yesterday. Jennifer Gelardi was the equivalent of three times over the drink-drive limit after a Sunday lunchtime drinking session with a friend to celebrate her birthday. She climbed out of the dormitory window, staggered along a ledge and plunged head-first on to concrete 30ft below. Christopher Martin, headmaster of the £15,000-a-year boarding school in Street, Somerset, said the vodka was bought by two sixth-form girls. One of them used a British Rail young person's rail card on which her date of birth had been changed. Mr Martin, who is to retire

next month after eight years as head, said: "The girls who bought the alcohol are absolutely mortified by what they have done. There is no question of the usual disciplinary procedures being used in this case. They would be totally inappropriate. No changes would be made to pupils' personal liberties as a result of the tragedy, Mr Martin said. "This is a school, not a prison. We cannot stop them moving freely and we do not keep them on chains. We try to educate them into making the right choices when it comes to alcohol, but just like adults, we all make mistakes." Third-former Jennifer had been at the school only since September, when she arrived in Britain from Jakarta, Indonesia. Her parents, who now live and work in Singapore, have said that their 16-year-

son, Tim, will stay on at the school. The incident took place at Jennifer's 35-strong all-girl house, Johnson's, almost a fortnight ago. Mr Martin said the whole school community had been profoundly affected. Pupils were well aware that drinking alcohol, other than in approved circumstances, was regarded as a serious offence. In future, all 18-year-olds were to be issued with official identification cards to avoid confusion locally. A local

shopkeeper said he was plagued by Millfield pupils trying to buy alcohol, especially vodka. "The worst time is on Saturday and Wednesday afternoons when they bunk off games. We get more than a dozen sometimes. They come in with fake IDs, which are very convincing, on smart paper with laminated fronts."

The shopkeeper added: "We have lists with all the school kids' names and details on them and just kick them out if they are lying. Their favourite tipple is vodka, probably because it is strong and doesn't make your breath smell, making it difficult to detect."

Millfield is Britain's most expensive school and a centre of sporting excellence. Famous alumni include the Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer Duncan Goodhew, the cricketer Ian Botham and tennis star Mark Cox.

The school houses pupils from 54 countries and just under half of the school's 1,249 pupils are girls. The full inquest into Jennifer's death will be held in Taunton next Tuesday.



The Princess Royal, colonel-in-chief of the 8th Canadian Hussars, inspects the guard in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The regiment is celebrating its 150th anniversary

Marine 'was punched for dozing off in lecture'

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL Marine told yesterday how he was punched in the face by a sergeant after falling asleep during a lecture. Marine David Tait was one of a number of recruits who complained about alleged ill-treatment while taking part in the 30-week commando training course at the Royal Marines' centre at Lympstone in Devon. He gave evidence yesterday at the court martial of two non-commissioned officers, Sergeant David Foggin and Corporal Steve Amphlett. Lieutenant Michael Geldard is charged with failing to report the allegations. Marine Tait said Sergeant Foggin punched him through an open tent window after he had been spotted falling asleep by Corporal Amphlett who was giving the lecture on patrolling. He said that he was hit on the right side of the face. Sergeant Foggin denies four charges of ill-treating recruits. Corporal Amphlett denies one charge of ill-treating recruits. Lieutenant Geldard denies one charge of conduct prejudicial to good order or military discipline. The hearing continues.

Scientists struggle to rescue satellite

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

ENGINEERS are trying to re-establish contact with a satellite that fell silent late on Thursday and is believed to be spinning out of control.

They fear that the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory Satellite — built by the European Space Agency and launched by the Americans — will soon run its batteries flat and be beyond recovery. Because it is spinning, it is no longer possible to point its solar panels at the Sun to generate power.

Soho, one of the most ambitious space science projects of the 1990s, was launched in December 1995. This April, it completed two years' observations of the Sun. The hope was to keep it going for another four years, which would include the next solar maximum in 2001. Soho has provided the most detailed view so far of mass ejections of material and "sunquakes" triggered by solar flares.

Dr Paul Murdin of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, which has supported British experiments on Soho, says that contact was lost when the satellite decided to go into an emergency procedure to point itself accurately at the Sun.

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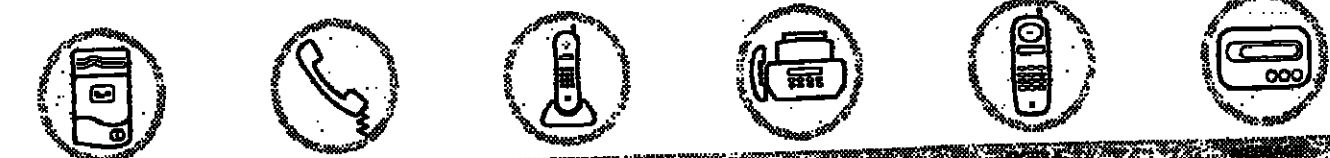
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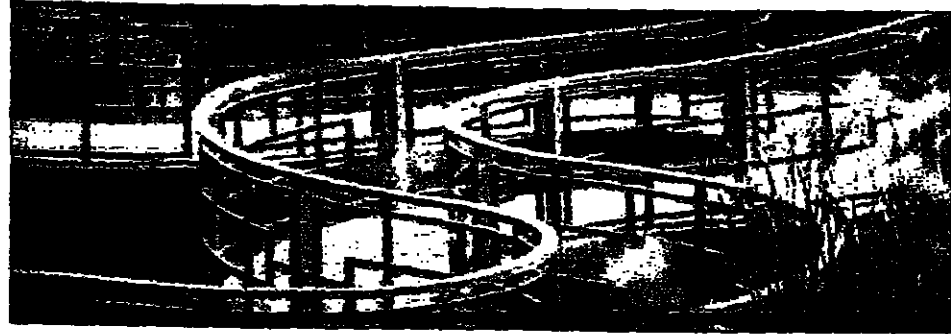
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Lisbon show offers lesson for the Dome



A nine-bend snake bridge amid a pleasant garden dominates the Macau pavilion

THE Millennium Dome has been triumphantly topped out, but anyone wishing to see what a disaster, or success, the Dome's dozen themed zones could be, needs to pay an urgent visit to this summer's World Expo in Lisbon.

First stop has to be the British pavilion, where a mind-numbingly banal show of Cool Britannia languishes. Designed by HP-ICM, the company doing the Body Zone in the Greenwich Dome, this is old-fashioned kiddies' play-time stuff which would not hold the attention of any modern child for five seconds.

It opens with an absurd Noddy-style model of the British Isles with umbrellas going up and down, accompanied by a syrupy film commercial attempting to show Britain as the trendiest place on Earth. Then a moving pavement circles the visitor round a chamber filled with Dalek-like robots, each inset with a screen which transpires to have nothing more than slogans inside. A few torpedo-like tubes show off carefully selected British innovations, but these are presented as designer toys more than seriously useful technology. How can serious sponsors such as Barclays, Johnnie Walker, BP, Rover and Unilever finance such

trivia, including a presentation of the British Antarctic Survey so brief as to be insulting? Tiny islands, impoverished former Soviet republics and even war-torn Eritrea manage more dignified and informative exhibits than Cool Britannia.

The British pavilion apart, the Lisbon show is full of inspiring pointers for the interior of the Dome, which Peter Mandelson, the minister responsible for the Dome, needs to see if he wants to avoid Cool Britannia falling flat on its face.

Three things stand out, the beauty of real artefacts and works of art, the value of superb, specially commissioned film (as opposed to too many trendy 3D shows and holograms) and the zip provided by live performers.

Numerous other countries show that scientific exploration can be presented in absorbing detail, just as it is on television programmes such as *Tomorrow's World*. The theme of Expo is the ocean and many countries make enthralling presentations of their coastlines, marine life and deep sea exploration.

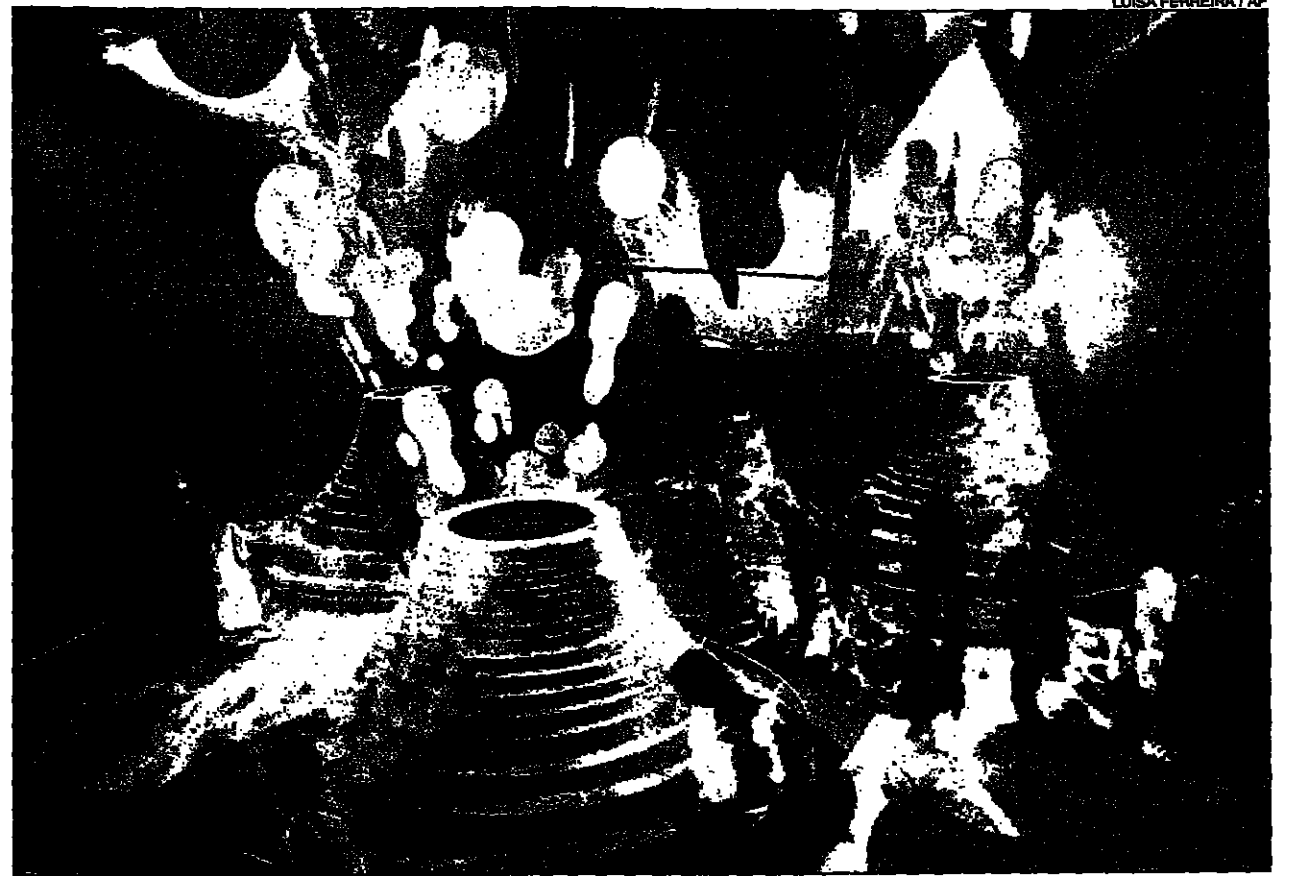
Most dramatic is the 75ft state barge of Sultan Abdul Aziz in the Turkish pavilion, like a giant gondola with oars inlaid in ivory. "All the ornament is solid gold," says the guide. A huge screen provides a water-lapped panorama of palaces, mosques, and wooden houses, such as you see on a boat trip up the Bosphorus.

While British churches wonder what to do with the spiritual area of the Dome, the Vatican has mounted a superb exhibition of religious art, taken mainly from Portuguese churches, on the theme of water — the baptism of Christ, the marriage at Cana, the Last Supper, and the Barque of St Peter, with a reconstruction of an early Christian baptism pool shaped like a Cross of Lorraine in the Alentejo province. Superb film footage includes a mesmerising, almost monochrome, show of geysers and glaciers in Iceland, and Finland's vast screen

of an ice-breaker powering noisily towards you with ice flying in every direction. Another firm of British designers, the Visual Connection, can take credit for one of the most popular attractions in the show, the Macau pavilion, which Disney has promptly offered to buy and re-erect in Florida. As well as first-class film of Macau, and a Chinese garden with snake bridge, it comes with 36 smartly-dressed performers, dancers, jugglers and gymnasts.

Yet the Macau pavilion was criticised by officials organising Expo for including a large replica of a baroque church in a show which was intended architecturally to be 100 per cent cool modern. The lesson from Lisbon is that gimmickry and sloganising are just embarrassing.

Marcus Binney
despairs at the
trivia and
passé gimmickry
displayed at the
British pavilion



The United Kingdom pavilion presents an underwater scene at Expo 98, which has oceans as its theme

Expo's Pavilion of the Future does not bode well for parts of the Dome. Showing little more than a sentimental 12-minute 3D film of a baby in nappies confronted with the horrors of pollution, it attracted repeated catcalls. Architecturally, Lisbon does the equivalent of the white suit in the tropics. Virtually every building is ice white but there is colour too in an almost medieval sense, with thousands of flags and pennants and huge green, blue or red banners in front of each pavilion.

There are impressive landmark buildings. The new railway station by Calatrava is like a cathedral without walls, all pointed arches and glass vaults. The Portuguese pavil-

ion, by Alvaro Siza Vieira, has a vast concrete canopy dipping towards the centre under its own weight.

The covered arena by the Americans Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill, has a spectacular arched wooden roof as wide as the train shed of St Pancras station. The Oceans pavilion by Peter Chermayeff is a modern version of a moated castle with corner towers of transparent glass. A brilliant touch is provided by the cone-shaped fountains which erupt every few minutes like volcanoes.

Lisbon has created the festival atmosphere that the Government is seeking for the Dome. A whole lot more than a funfair.



Vatican
show of
religious art
on the theme
of water is
superb

Vatican ends dispute with Lutherans over the key to salvation

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME

THE Vatican has reached agreement with the Lutheran World Federation to end a major doctrinal dispute with the Roman Catholic Church over the nature of how Man can achieve salvation, the Holy See said yesterday.

Cardinal Edward Cassidy, chairman of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, said the accord was a milestone in ecumenical efforts to end differences with the world's 66 million Lutherans. "The consensus will be of importance not only for Catholic-Lutheran relations and future dialogue, but also for progress in the search for unity between Catholics and other communities coming out of the Reformation controversies," the Australian prelate said.

The decision means that "where such consensus has been reached, the condemnations levelled at one another in the 16th century no longer apply to the respective partners," the cardinal said. "We today," he said, "cannot, of course, erase these condemnations from history. We can, however, now state that in so far as a consensus on the understanding of basic truths articulated in the joint declaration has been achieved, the corresponding condemnations found in the Lutheran Confessions and in the Council of Trent no longer apply."

The doctrinal accord will be signed in a joint declaration by the two "confessional families" in the autumn. Cardinal Cassidy said. Luther's break with Rome had focused on the question of "justification", or



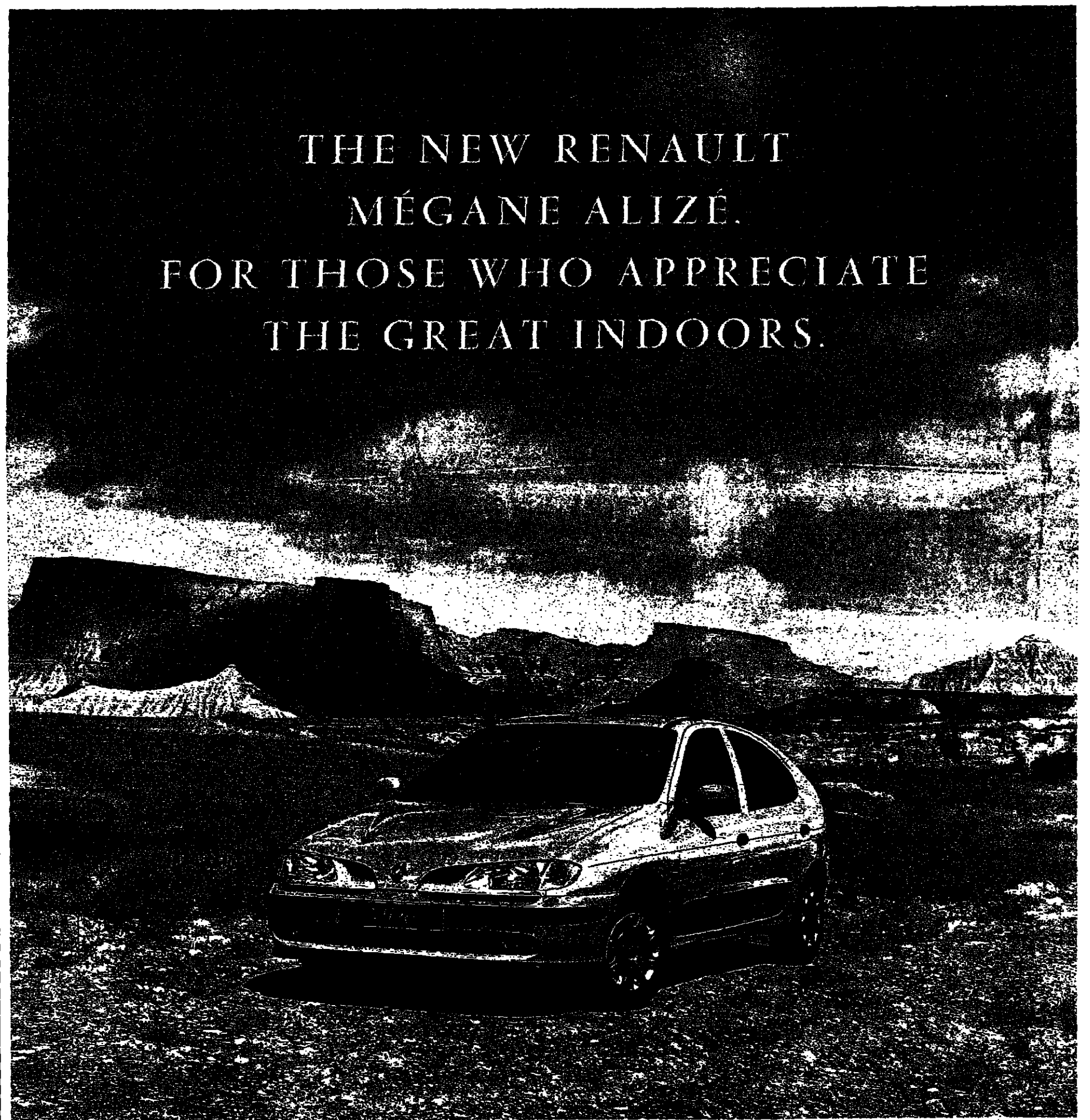
Luther: he broke with Rome over justification

salvation. The Lutherans asserted that Man could be saved "only and uniquely by faith", while the Council of Trent maintained that it was necessary to have a "co-operation" from Man through good works. The dispute was a major element in the decision by the Church to excommunicate Luther in 1521.

A joint Catholic and Lutheran commission of theologians working since 1967 to resolve outstanding differences reached agreement last year to declare that Man is saved "by the grace of God". Faith and good works both are granted by the grace of God, the theologians concluded.

The Geneva-based World Lutheran Federation hierarchy already had approved the joint declaration before the approval of Rome was announced this week. However, Lutherans grouped in the rival International Lutheran Council have opposed the decision as going against Lutheran tradition.

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Three arrested in riot at teenage detention centre

Supervisors are injured at a new 'last chance' unit for disruptive children, writes Michael Horsnell

TEENAGE inmates who staged a riot at a "last chance" detention centre yesterday as an inquiry began into the incident.

Three supervisors at the Medway Secure Training Centre in Rochester, Kent, were hurt in the disturbance, which took more than 30 anti-riot police with dog teams to bring under control.

Nine of the 15 children at the centre, which has been branded a "college of crime" by charities and prisoners' rights groups since it opened two months ago, were involved in the 90-minute outbreak. Damage estimated at up to £5,000 was caused to furniture, fixtures and fittings. Twelve windows were broken.

The Home Office will decide what punishment should be meted out but, as a start, no one involved was allowed to watch England's World Cup match against Colombia.

The Howard League, the prison reform charity, called for the institution to be closed and a local authority child protection team to be called in. Two boys and a girl, all aged 14, who were arrested for assaulting staff and for violent

disorder offences, were in custody at Chatham police station last night.

Trouble at the centre, the first of its kind, began at about 8pm on Thursday when five occupants of one of the accommodation areas attacked two supervisors. Police said the riot may have started because they were told to finish a game of pool five minutes early as a punishment for misbehaviour.

A spokesman for Rebound, the Group 4 subsidiary that runs the centre for the Home Office, said an inquiry has

been started. He said: "They started to smash windows in the living accommodation and got out and went into the courtyard area between the house blocks."

Four others from an adjoining block joined in and the gang moved to the education block, where they smashed more windows. "They continued their violent, abusive and hooligan behaviour and police were called to support our staff," the spokesman said.

Staff received minor injuries as they tried to control the children, who are referred to as trainees. They were only able to do so with the help of police called in by the centre's director, Sue Clifton. She was not available for comment.

All the trainees were returned to their rooms and secured, and the security of the premises was not breached.

Frances Crook, director of the Howard League, said last night: "The centre should be closed. If this had happened in a local authority secure unit, the local social services would have sent in a child protection team within an hour. Because it's Group 4 and it is private, no one has been sent in to see that the children are OK."



Sue Clifton inside the Medway Secure Training Centre at its opening. She called in police to deal with the riot

The centre was opened in April and is designed for 40 children aged between 12 and 15, supervised by 100 staff. It was designed to hold some of the most disruptive teenagers, but was dubbed "the Medway Hilton" when it opened.

Children are held at a cost of £2,400 a week, have their own bedrooms and access to a television lounge. They can prepare their own food in kitchens fitted with microwave ovens, toasters and fridges, and have the use of a gym and education centre with comput-

ers. The trainees are held under Secure Training Orders, which detain them for up to a year, with an equivalent period spent after release under supervision in the community. To be sent there, the children must have committed three imprisonable offences and have breached a supervision order. Before the centre opened it was impossible to detain such young children unless they had committed the most serious crimes, such as rape or murder.

Medway is the first of five planned centres, first proposed in 1993 by the Conservative Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

They were condemned by Labour while in Opposition as "colleges of crime", but after the election Jack Straw said he was forced to go ahead with the Medway centre because the contract had already been signed.

Mr Straw is about to sign another contract with Group 4 for a second centre at Onley in Northamptonshire. A third is planned in Medomsley in Co

Durham, and two others will be built elsewhere. Under the Crime and Disorder Bill, which is about to become law, the Secure Training Orders for 12 to 14-year-olds will be replaced by Detention and Training Orders for 10 to 17-year-olds.

A Home Office spokesman said at the time of its opening: "It's a last resort, a last chance for society to address the problem and do something about it before it becomes too late and the youngsters become career criminals."

Parental choice 'is bar to smaller classes'

By Victoria Fletcher

PARENTAL freedom to choose a child's school must be constrained if class sizes are to be reduced, Labour councillors said yesterday.

The election pledge made by Labour last year to reduce primary class sizes to under 30 pupils by 2002 will be impossible to achieve if parents have the right to decide which school their child attends, the councillors claimed. Gavin Moore, Labour chairman of education in Lewisham, South London, said: "The Government has made two pledges on class size and parental choice. It is in danger of failing to deliver either."

Under current rules, parents are allowed to base their choice of school on Ofsted inspection reports and to appeal if they are rejected from their first choice. Speaking at the annual conference of the Council of Local Education Authorities in Buxton, Derbyshire, Mr Moore said: "You will see parents coming to appeals panels waving Ofsted reports and details of raw league tables and unsubstantiated hearsay from other parents and we will see appeals panels under severe pressure to grant these appeals."

There have been several successful appeals by parents allowing their children to enter the most popular schools even if classes have no further capacity. Local education authority chiefs fear that unless parental choice is cut, some schools will be greatly oversubscribed while others have to close. Local authorities will not have the funds to cover building costs and the additional teachers needed to keep class sizes low, they said.

Education authority leaders from around Britain largely supported Mr Moore, and the resolution for "constraints on parental preference" was carried.

There was much more disagreement among the delegates over education action zones, which entail business backing and extra government cash for schools in disadvantaged areas. While delegates from authorities that have successfully bid for the zones supported them, many others expressed disquiet.

Ty Goddard, Labour chairman of education in Lambeth, said the zones urged colleagues to put aside the "distraction which comes from old ways of thinking". But another London chairman, David Blunt, from Waltham Forest, said there were "sinister" as well as positive aspects. The conference gave only a "cautious" welcome to the Government's plans to establish 25 such zones.

Teachers bullied by their pupils

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

AT LEAST half of all teachers in comprehensive schools have been bullied by their pupils, according to a study by a university researcher who was threatened himself when he taught in schools.

More than half of the teachers in Midlands comprehensives who took part in the Keele University survey said they had been bullied at least once in the past term. Male teachers were the more likely victims. Andrew Terry, the psychologist who carried out the research, said: "There is a professional reluctance on the part of teachers to admit that they have been bullied."

The survey uncovered examples of teachers being threatened or attacked. More than eight out of ten teachers said that they knew a colleague who had been bullied.

Mr Terry, who taught English and music in comprehensive schools before gaining a

PhD in psychology, said: "I was physically threatened on several occasions but the incidents were never properly followed up by the school management. Head teachers and others who have never experienced it often refuse to believe that it exists."

Teaching unions have reported growing levels of stress among their members, many of whom feel threatened by parents and senior staff as well as pupils. Mr Terry said that, although only 101 teachers were involved in his survey, he was convinced that the results were representative of the rest of the country.

More than 2,000 teachers are facing redundancy because of budget shortfalls in state schools, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers says today. About a third of secondary schools surveyed by the union said they were planning redundancies.

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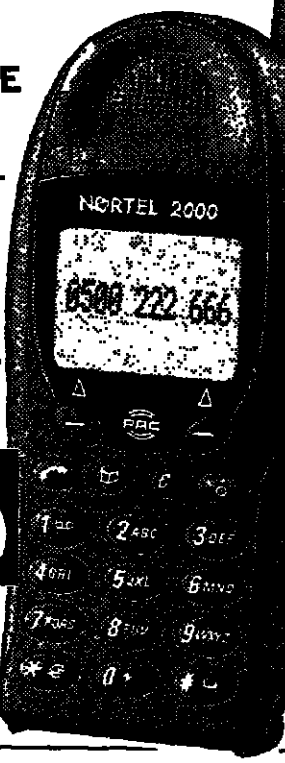
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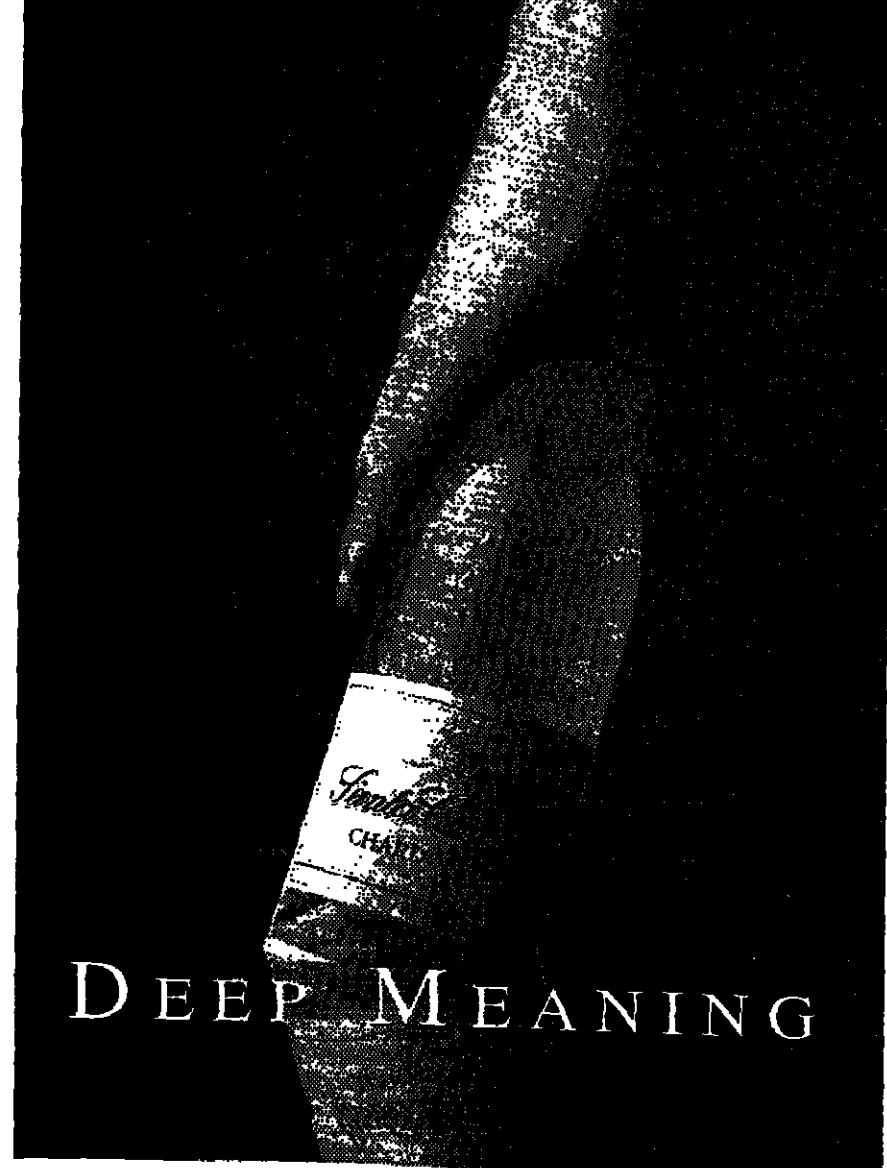
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Book with hollow ring

JAMES BONE'S
NEW YORK



A PRIZE-WINNING Scottish author is being forced to pulp the entire US edition of his biography of Alexander Graham Bell because of accusations of plagiarism by an American academic.

James Mackay's life of Bell was first published in Britain by Mainsream Publishing last year to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Scottish emigrant who invented the telephone, and North American rights went to John Wiley & Sons, the New York publishing house.

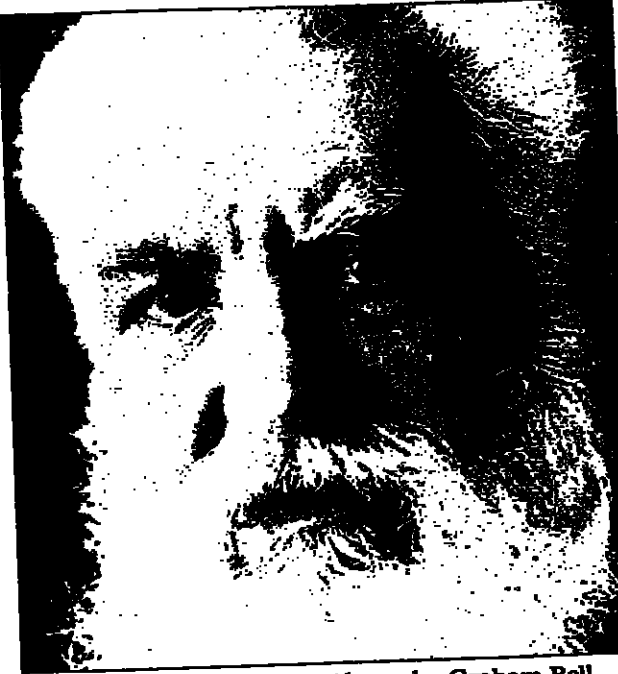
Under a confidential agreement, however, the 10,000 copies printed in America this spring will now be shredded at the author's expense.

The chief protagonist in this literary drama is a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, Robert Bruce, who wrote the definitive biography of Bell in 1973. A former Boston University professor who undertook

ground-breaking research in the Bell archives in the 1960s, Bruce says he is appalled by Mackay's reliance on his work. "Except for a dozen or so pages of trumped-up trivia, Mackay has packed his entire book of more than 300 pages with unmistakable plagiarism, line after line, page after page, chapter after chapter, echoing my book and no other," Bruce says.

Even before the controversy erupted, a quick-witted reviewer in *The Washington Post* noted a certain déjà vu in reading Mackay's tome after Bruce's *Alexander Graham Bell and the Conquest of Solitude*.

A Glaswegian, Mackay is known to British readers as the biographer of enterprising Scots. His subjects include the private detective Allan Pinkerton (*The Eye Who Never Sleeps*); the poet Robert Service (*Vagabond of Verse*); industri-



Engaging biographers: Alexander Graham Bell

alist Andrew Carnegie (*Little Boss*) and grocer Sir Thomas Lipton (*The Man Who Invented Himself*).

He is also regarded as a world-class expert on Robert Burns, and his biography of the poet won him the Saltire

Award for the Scottish Book of the Year in 1994.

A repentant Mackay acknowledges that he made a mistake in quoting from letters between Bell and his wife Mabel that were originally published by Bruce. Never-

theless, Mackay insists that he added to Bruce's original research with new information about Bell's early years in St Andrew's, as well as his residence in Canada and his subsequent sojourn in London. He emphasises that he did not blindly accept Bruce's version, noting that he corrected the spelling of the family's hometown of Putelo Heights in Canada from the "Putela" used by his rival.

Describing himself as "knocked for six" by the allegations and the five-figure bill for the pulp, Mackay has written to apologise to Bruce and offered to allow him to use his research for the new edition. "I pay tribute to his scholarship," he says. "The impression I get is that he is, in effect, saying, 'How dare anyone else come along and poach on my territory?'"

The American is in no mood to respond, however, vowing: "He is not going to get off scot-free."

On the Upper West Side I spotted a middle-aged man sporting a T-shirt proclaiming the now long-defunct slogan to "Free Soviet Jews". I was left pondering the world in which an "evil empire" is outlasted by a cotton top.



Karen Finley: pioneering artiste with chocolate

Putting on a spread for critics

THE Chocolate-Smeared Woman is back to torment her powerful critics in Congress.

Karen Finley became a cause célèbre eight years ago by daubing her nearly naked body in chocolate on stage during a now-notorious performance entitled *We Keep Our Victims Ready*.

The show provoked an outcry among congressional conservatives determined to stop taxpayer dollars subsidising Finley through the National Endowment for the Arts.

Overnight, Finley sparked a nationwide debate about the state of the so-called avant-garde. Undaunted by the outcome, Finley (once dubbed 'Talented Tolemouth' by *Time* magazine) is taking revenge on her opponents at a tiny theatre in downtown Manhattan, where she has just opened a reprise of her infamous role, entitled *The Return of the Chocolate-Smeared Woman*.

The show is definitely not for those with a weak stomach. It opens with her soliciting \$20 (£12) from a patron for the opportunity to lick the chocolate spread from her thigh, and ends with her washing naked in a tin bathtub on stage.

Spicy slice of life

WHEN Monica Lewinsky served takeaway pizza to President Clinton in the Oval Office during the federal government shutdown in Washington, was it the fulfilment of a long-repressed fantasy for the trainee?



Lewinsky: cheesy poet

Daniel Pinchuck, the enterprising editor of the New York literary journal *Open City*, claims to have discovered a poem in a high-school yearbook that was written by Monica Lewinsky when she was just ten or eleven years old.

"I am a pizza/I can be a delicious lunch, dinner/or breakfast, if you're weird/I have a great deal of toppings on me/I am a round and flat piece of dough/with lots of toppings/I make your mouth water/I'm very good to eat,

but I'm/fattening!/I make you say 'Yum, Yum'/I am a pizza."

All of which goes to explain why President Clinton reportedly gave his White House intern a copy of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*.

The gentlemen of the Harvard Club are struggling to keep their bunnies in their hats. The manager of the club's barber shop caused a minor revolution when he announced he was cancelling his subscription to certain skin magazines for fear of offending female customers. The club's house committee has devised a diplomatic compromise. *Playboy* and *Penthouse* will no longer be sent to the barber shop, but to the pigeonhole of an individual member, who will then hide them in a convenient cupboard. Barney Oldfield, 41, a 1979 Harvard graduate and grandson of the legendary racing car driver of the same name, has volunteered for the task. "I don't read *Playboy*," he said, "but there are people who want to read it, and they should."

Quentin Tarantino's debut on Broadway is to be aborted after bad notices. The Hollywood wunderkind, who directed the cultish *Pulp Fiction*, had been pacing the boards alongside Marisa Tomei in a revival of *Wait Until Dark*. The show will now go dark this weekend.

Jarvis Cocker, currently in the States with Pulp, offers the following *pensées* on the state of the Britpop scene: "It doesn't exist any more. It died approximately ten months ago. But there is some good stuff coming out of Britain, mostly from the dance scene rather than rock."

Religious Right rounds on Fonda over teenage sex

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S Christian conservatives have turned their heavy guns on Jane Fonda, accusing her of being intolerant, insensitive and inflammatory after the actress's recent remarks that the Religious Right was concerned only with the welfare of "the white middle-class".

Christian ire was provoked by Ms Fonda when she spoke on Wednesday at a National Press Club luncheon in Washington. The subject was teenage pregnancy — a theme on which the radical actress and "the moral majority" have little in common.

Asked why Christian conservatives believe programmes to prevent teenage pregnancy should not include birth-control information, Ms Fonda said: "They don't care about children that don't look like them. They don't care about children that are not white, middle-class Christians. As far as they're con-



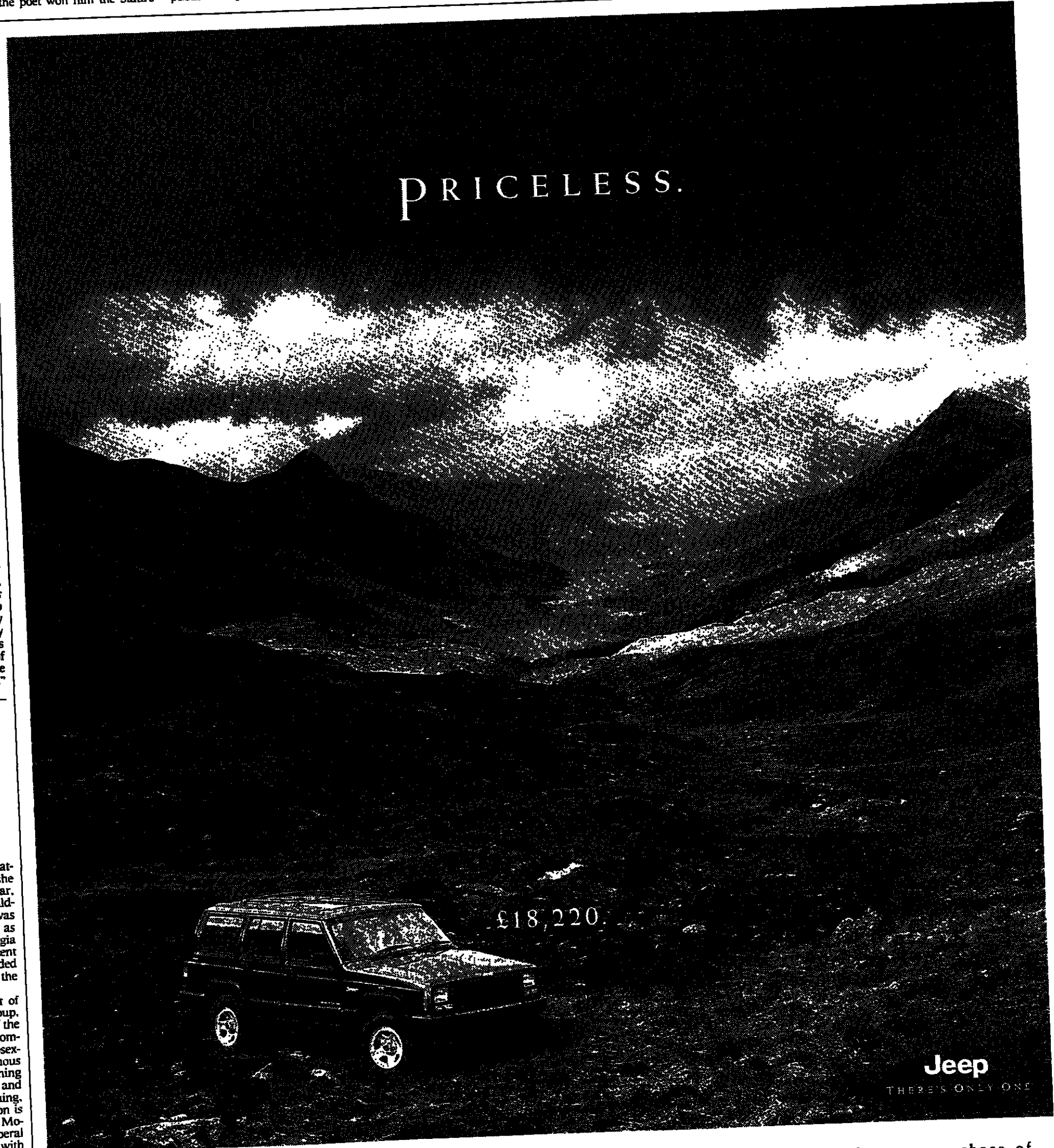
Fonda: fighting a "holy war" for all children

cerned, others can be eliminated." For good measure, she added: "This is a holy war, and everything for our children is at stake." Ms Fonda was speaking in her capacity as chairwoman of the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, funded mainly by her husband, the media tycoon Ted Turner.

Robert Peters, president of the Morality in Media group, said the actress was one of the "radical, liberal condom-wavers who view heterosexual, life-long, monogamous marriage as undermining their goals for equality and liberation". Clearly fuming, Mr Peters said: "Protection is not a long-term solution. Morality is. The true liberal concern ends there — with condoms. They don't see teen sex as immoral. Many liberals don't want kids to accept traditional moral values."

Randy Tate, executive director of the Christian Coalition, demanded that Ms Fonda apologise immediately and unreservedly. "People of faith across the nation are deeply saddened by [her] intolerant and insensitive comments," he said. They "do nothing to advance the causes of racial reconciliation or reduce the tragic number of teen pregnancies and out-of-wedlock births".

Gary Bauer, president of the powerful Family Research Council, was also incensed. "It's outrageous, bigoted and hateful. I wish the Jane Fondas of this world would debate the issues without lapsing into this kind of vicious attack."



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THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 27 1998

Arrest of dissidents sours visit

PAUL RICHARDS / AFP



President Clinton, with wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, visit the ancient terracotta warriors excavated from an imperial tomb at Xian

Sinatra's widow is robbed of \$17,000 in street

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

BARELY a month after Frank Sinatra's death, his widow has been robbed of valuables worth \$17,000 (£10,000) — including a "very sentimental gift" from her husband — while walking with friends in Beverly Hills.

Barbara Sinatra, 71, was mugged by three young men who did not appear to be armed but demanded money and property before fleeing in a waiting car. Beverly Hills police said. No one was hurt and no has been arrested.

The attack left Mr Sinatra's fourth wife "terribly shaken and upset", according to a family friend quoted in the *New York Post*.

The attack happened a few blocks from her house in one of Beverly Hills' most exclusive neighbourhoods. Police described the suspects as well-built, black and in their 20s, and said the episode was over within 30 seconds.

Fred Golden, a friend of the Sinatras, confirmed that a gift from Frank Sinatra was among the items taken. "It's all insured," he said, "but it's the sentimental value that counts. This could not have happened at a worse time... Frank's death hit her really hard."



Sinatra: gift from late husband stolen

CLINTON IN CHINA



PRESIDENT CLINTON will today tell China's leaders that their treatment of political dissidents is "thoroughly unacceptable" after reports of arrests across the country rocketed human rights up the agenda of his controversial state visit.

Mr Clinton, who arrived in the Silk Road city of Xian on Thursday, yesterday flew on to Beijing where he will meet President Jiang Zemin.

In some of the harshest American language against China for years, Sandy Berger, the National Security Adviser, said yesterday that China must learn "people are not debris to be swept up for a visitor". The US had put its concerns bluntly to the Chinese yesterday, he said, "but their response so far has not been terribly satisfactory. They dispute the facts and otherwise explain these incidents away."

Emphatically shaming the careful language US officials have so far used to handle the subject, he added: "China's record on human rights is terrible. It is an authoritarian country... there has been some progress, but not nearly enough."

Last night police released three of four dissidents detained before the President's arrival. All three were freed in Xian as Mr Clinton left for Beijing — but not before the President ordered James Sasser, the US Ambassador to China, to lodge a formal complaint. Two of the dissidents, Yang Hai and Zhang

US on offensive as rights shoot to top of agenda, writes Bronwen Maddox in Xian

Jiankang, were detained after American television crews attempted to interview them. The third, Yan Jun, was one of 70 who signed a letter to Mr Clinton urging him to meet dissidents and skip his official welcoming ceremony at Tiananmen Square because of the June 4, 1989 crackdown.

The Beijing authorities also arrested an underground Roman Catholic bishop, telling him they wanted him out of the way during the visit. Mr Clinton plans to drive home his human rights message at his two meetings with President Jiang this morning. The escalation of tension will add to the controversy surrounding today's welcome ceremony in Tiananmen Square, when Mr Clinton will stand by President Jiang's side to review Chinese troops.

Mr Clinton said yesterday that the detentions "represent China not at its best — not looking forward but looking backward". All eyes will now be on his Monday morning remarks at Beijing University — likely to be the highest-profile speech of the nine-day visit. He is expected to dedicate it to the importance of democracy and liberty. It remained unclear yesterday whether China would allow the speech to be broadcast live on national television.

The row threatens to dominate a summit intended to be primarily about economic issues. Today Mr Clinton has a private lunch with Premier Zhu Rongji, the main architect of China's economic liberalisation. It may overshadow a night's state banquet in the Great Hall of the People, and tomorrow night's two-hour private dinner with President Jiang. It will also draw more attention to tomorrow's expected remarks in defence of religious freedom after he attends a church service at Congwenmen church.

The Administration yesterday offered Chinese leaders a way to cool the diplomatic temperature. "We believe it's happening at lower levels," said one official. "Chinese officials are overreacting in trying to avoid incidents during the visit." But the Administration's response marks the first note of open conflict in a visit that represents a diplomatic tightrope. For Mr Clinton it comes as pressure grows from congressional Republicans for him to demonstrate that he is not sacrificing human rights in the pursuit of commercial ties with China. He was provoked into commenting on the dissidents' plight during what was intended as a charming pastoral interlude.

In Xiahe, a village of 370 people, booming since the discovery near by of the ancient Terracotta Warriors, he conducted a "roundtable" discussion about prosperity and local elections. Later, Mr Clinton, Hillary, her mother Dorothy Rodham, Chelsea Clinton, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and half a dozen Congress members watched a dancing and singing display by 300 children, who had rehearsed for four hours in the 30C (85F) heat.

Senator Fred Thompson, the chairman of the hearings, said that he believed that the Clinton Administration had clearly tailored its export policy in favour of trade. "The system is indeed rigged in favour of commercial interests as opposed to national security interests," he said.

However, Franklin Miller, a senior Pentagon official who oversees weapons proliferation policy, described Mr Leitner's testimony as "absolute nonsense".

White House pursuit of Beijing trade ties 'is jeopardising security'

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A SENIOR Pentagon adviser has alleged that the Clinton Administration has jeopardised national security in its zeal to cement ties with China and promote business abroad for American companies.

Peter Leitner, the senior strategic trade adviser at the Pentagon's Defence Technology Security Ad-

ministration — a body which monitors foreign purchases of American computers and other hi-tech exports — has told a Senate hearing that "what passes for an export-control system has been hijacked by long-time ideological opponents of the very concept of export control". He also said that his agency, set up during the Cold War to restrict sales to the Eastern Bloc, was now almost

completely sidelined. Mr Leitner stated that senior defence officials frequently ordered their subordinates to dilute or reverse their opposition to sensitive exports. "That's happened on several occasions," he said. "Sometimes it happens in your face and sometimes somebody tampers with your database under your name." Mr

Leitner also said that the Defence Department was in disarray and was being "boldly overruled" by the Commerce Department on export licensing decisions. He cited several examples at the hearing into whether China obtained sensitive technology that aided its ballistic missile programme.

On one occasion in 1994, he said, he was ordered to revoke his

opposition to the export of machine-tool equipment to China because "senior administration officials" had already decided that the deal was going to go through. Mr Leitner said that he was "taken off the case" after he refused to comply with the order.

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CHRIS WARDE-JONES



A satyr, part of an intricate mosaic on display at the Palazzo Massimo, is given a final polish before the museum opens to the public today

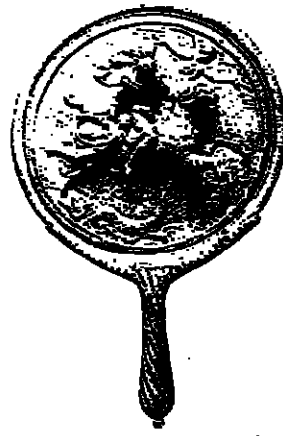
Rome unveils gem of a show

John Phillips inspects a glittering collection of ancient riches taken from storage and given a proper home

ONE of the world's richest and most dazzling collections of ancient art, coins and jewellery from the Roman Republic and Empire will be opened by President Scalfaro today in the Palazzo Massimo delle Terme.

The imposing late 19th century palace a stone's throw from Rome's main Termini railway station was acquired by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage in 1981 to house the collection belonging to the National Roman Museum that was stored in disorder at the Dioletian Baths.

The restoration of the Palazzo Massimo and its exhibits took 14 years and the cost of the project, including purchasing the building that for much of this century was used as a Jesuit college, is estimated at 89 billion lire (£30 million). Walter Veltroni, the energetic Minister for Cultural Heri-



A silver mirror dating from the second century

spot for Livia to escape from the heat of the summer and is one of the best preserved illustrations of an ancient Roman aristocratic garden.

"The theme is man's control over nature," explained Jessica Del Russo, one of the team of archaeologists who has worked on organising the museum. "Order is demonstrated by the painted lattice work and hedges. It is as if one were looking from a balcony onto the surrounding woods of fruit and conifer trees." The room was located near a piscina or open swimming pool.

Nearby there is a complex of three bedrooms and chambers from a villa believed to have belonged to Giulia, the daughter of Augustus. The refined frescoes in the bedrooms include erotic scenes of couples desporting themselves and images of Aphrodite and the dressing of Venus.

The finely carved procession of Roman consuls on a sarcophagus on the first floor dates from AD270. Also remarkable from the third century is the sarcophagus with muses that was found in the 15th century near the site of the Church of St Paul Outside the Walls. The masks of the muses of comedy and tragedy were studied closely by Renaissance artists.

The basement of the palace contains a numismatic collection tracing the history of coins from ancient times to the present day. Many of the 3,000 coins came from a collection of 100,000 coins that King Victor Emanuel III gave to the nation.

A barrel-vaulted chamber contains the original frescoes from an underground room at the suburban villa of Livia, the wife of Augustus, at Prima Porta on the Flaminian Way. The villa was discovered in the 19th century and the frescoes were removed in 1951. The room was built as a cool

Italian monarchists have protested that it is unfair that the male heirs of the House of Savoy will not be able to attend the opening of the Palazzo Massimo under the ban on their visiting Italy that was instituted with the abolition of the monarchy after the Second World War.

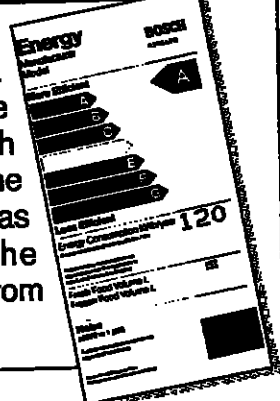
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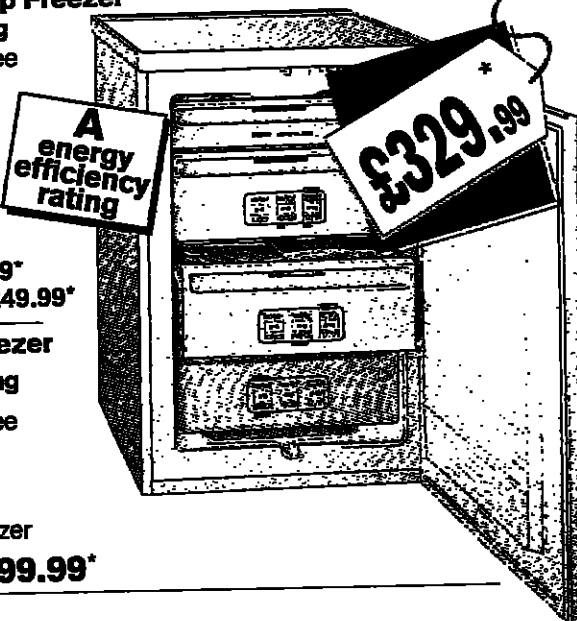


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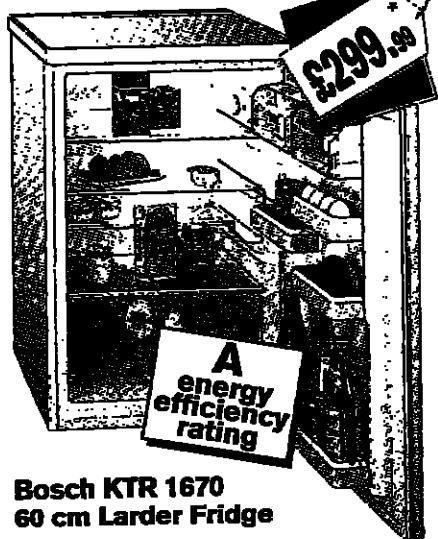
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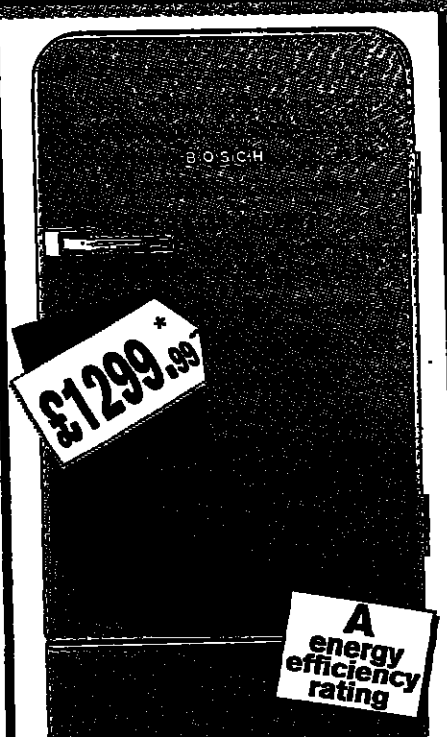
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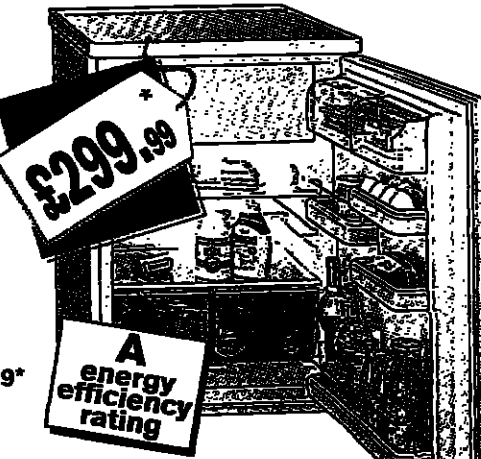
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Vote transfers should boost Trimble support

Martin Fletcher analyses the first results as Unionist opponents of the peace deal make a strong start

UNIONIST opponents of the Good Friday peace accord came galloping out of the stalls yesterday, but its Unionist supporters were expected to make ground as the counting continued. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party won a series of significant victories in first counts across the Province, but barely 20 per cent of the 108 seats were settled on first counts.

Under the single transferable vote system, David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party was expected to receive many more "transfers" from other pro-accord parties in subsequent counts. A BBC exit poll suggested 69 per cent of voters had exclusively backed parties that supported the accord and 21 per cent those that opposed it.

DUP candidates topped the polls in Mid-Ulster where Willie McCrea narrowly beat Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness — the man who deprived him of his Westminster seat last year — and in South Down, where Iris Robinson, wife of Peter Robinson, MP for East Belfast and the DUP deputy leader, beat John Taylor, the UUP's deputy leader and the constituency's sitting MP.

Dr Paisley romped home in his own constituency of North

Antrim where his son, Ian, was also elected. Peter Robinson won easily in East Belfast. Gregory Campbell, a DUP councillor, came first in East Londonderry.

The DUP's Nigel Dodds came first in North Belfast where there is a sitting Ulster Unionist MP. The UUP vote collapsed and its leading candidate came sixth in the first count. In East Antrim the poll was topped by Roy Beggs, son of the constituency's MP and a UUP rebel who opposed the accord.

Robert McCartney, the UK Unionist Party leader and one of the accord's foremost opponents, won comfortably in North Down where he is the sitting MP.

In all, anti-agreement candidates topped the polls in eight of the 18 constituencies, and in the Upper Bann constituency of David Trimble, the UUP leader, there were more votes cast for anti-agreement candidates. Mr Trimble came first in Upper Bann but the other three UUP candidates there fared miserably while Denis Watson, the local Orange Order leader who opposes the accord, looked likely to be elected.

In Lagan Valley, whose MP is the dissident UUP MP Jeffrey Donaldson, the UUP



Counting under way at Belfast City Hall yesterday in the elections to the assembly

candidates came second and sixth on the first count while the centrist Alliance Party came first. "There are problems, and clearly those problems have had an effect on this election, but I think we will leave the post mortem until everything is complete," Mr Trimble said. However he insisted that "people who were against the agreement and hope to trip us up and defeat us have failed to do so."

On the nationalist side Sinn Fein was polling well, but stood little chance of achieving its aim of supplanting the SDLP as nationalism's largest party. The key nationalist battleground of West Tyrone looked likely to produce two seats each, but Sinn Fein won 34 per cent of the first count vote compared with the SDLP's 26, which suggests the constituency will elect a Sinn Fein MP at the next general election.

Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president, was among the first candidates to win election to the 108-seat assembly, topping the poll in staunchly nationalist West Belfast. Also elected on the first count was Joe Hendron, the former SDLP MP Mr Adams defeated in last year's general election.

John Hume, the SDLP leader, won in Foyle with more than double the support of his closest rival. His party and Sinn Fein were heading to share four of the remaining five seats between them. In another battleground, Newry and Armagh, the SDLP's deputy leader Seamus Mallon comfortably topped the poll.

Among the smaller parties David Ervine, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party which represents the loyalist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force, looked set for election in East Belfast, where he came fourth in the first count. Two or three other PUP candidates remained in the hunt.

However the Ulster Democratic Party, which represents the loyalist paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, was in serious danger of being unrepresented in the new assembly. Its leader, Gary McMichael, came seventh in the first count in Lagan Valley. Of the eight Women's Coalition candidates only Monica McWilliams, in South Belfast, looked likely to be elected.

The assembly is expected to meet at Stormont for the first time next Wednesday when it will choose the first Minister and Deputy First Minister.



Counting under way at Belfast City Hall yesterday in the elections to the assembly

Family gather to remember a rebel

By Audrey Maguire
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 200 members of the Emmet family gathered in Dublin yesterday to remember their ancestor Robert Emmet, an Irish nationalist hero and beheaded for rebelling against British rule.

They came from all over the world to attend the 61st Emmet family gathering since 18 when he was executed for leading a failed uprising. The family, most of whom live in the United States, are tracing the steps of his life, visiting Kilmashnam Gaol, where he was imprisoned, and Catherine's Church, where he was hanged at the age of 25.

"It is wonderful to be here, to see all these places and learn so much about Robert Emmet's life," said Jeremy Emmet, who has spent the last 18 months organising the family trip. He wrote to 450 members of his extended family suggesting a five-day visit and has rounded up 220 Emmets aged between six months and 87.

All 450 members descended from Robert's older brother, Thomas Adams, who with Wolfe Tone founded the United Irishmen. Both protesters, Tone and Thomas Emmet plotted the 1798 rebellion, which failed when British French arms failed to arrive. Thomas was jailed at later moved to America, where he became Attorney-General. The gathering coincided with the commemorations of the 198 rebellion.

IRA may disclose where missing Catholic victims are buried



Nairac fate of SAS man likely to remain mystery

THE IRA is believed to be preparing to disclose the unmarked burial sites of a dozen people it abducted and killed during the Troubles.

The apparent decision to identify the graves is said to be a signal that "the war is over" and could help to allay Unionist opposition to Sinn Fein's participation in Northern Ireland's government. Intermediaries would pass the information to the Irish authorities, and the Irish police would help to exhume the remains so they could be returned to families, *The Irish Times* reported.

The remains of Robert Nairac, the SAS captain captured in South Armagh in 1977, would probably

Martin Fletcher on reports of a move that might improve Sinn Fein's credentials

not be among those returned. The other "disappeared" were Roman Catholics deemed by the IRA to have transgressed in some way.

Seamus McKendry, whose mother-in-law was spirited away in 1972 and who runs a group called Families of the Disappeared, said that he believed the reports were genuine. "Anything that's going to end the pain and anguish for some families at least has got to be welcomed," he said.

Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's chairman, said he knew nothing of

such a decision but hoped it was true. London, Dublin and Washington have pressed Sinn Fein's leadership to use its influence to resolve the issue. It is one of the criteria by which London and the Ulster Unionists have said they will evaluate the party's commitment to democracy and non-violence.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, yesterday called on anyone with information to come forward with it. "This is a very sensitive issue and I don't think it would be in anyone's interest to

make any comment except what we have already said and that is our view that if people are missing, if they have been killed, that information should go to the families."

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionists' security spokesman, said that identifying the graves would show some movement by militant republicans "to begin the metamorphosis towards acceptance of democracy, but there's a long way to go."

Mr McKendry's mother-in-law, Helen McConville, was abducted from her West Belfast flat after she

had comforted a dying British soldier. She was never seen again. She was a widow and her ten children were left to fend for themselves. A man claiming to be one of her abductors has told a priest that she was buried in land in West Belfast that has since been built on.

There may be many "disappeared" whose families dare not speak out or cling to the illusion that husbands or sons were exiled. The known "disappeared" are:

□ Seamus Wright and Kevin McKee, killed in 1972 as informers. Believed to be

buried in South Armagh.

□ John McIlroy and Seamus Wright, suspected informers from West Belfast. Disappeared in 1974.

□ Columba McVeigh, 17, from Inghinnon, Co Tyrone, killed in 1975 for suspected collaboration with security forces.

□ John McClory, 18, and Brian McKinney, 22, petty criminals from West Belfast, abducted from work in 1978.

□ Gerald Evans, unemployed painter from South Armagh who did not die the IRA's line. Last seen hitchhiking home.

□ Charlie Armstrong, 55, Mrs Evans's neighbour, left to collect a friend's Mass one Sunday in 1980. Never seen again.

□ Eugene Simmons, 23, suspected informer. Left party in Castlewellan, Co Down, with group of men in 1976. Body found in bog with bullet hole temple.

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Ministers shun BBC inquisitors for chats on sofa

A SERIOUS rift has opened up between the Government and the BBC over "invisible ministers" who seem to have vanished from the airwaves.

Broadcasters are complaining about senior Labour figures who refuse to appear on serious television and radio shows with tough inquisitors such as Jeremy Paxman, John Humphrys and Nick Clarke but instead seek out "sofa slots" with soft interviewers.

The Times has found that some leading politicians have been missing from the main TV and radio news programmes for nearly a year. With Betty Boothroyd, the Commons Speaker, adding her voice to complaints that ministers are also given an easy ride in Parliament because of the sycophancy of many of their backbenchers, fears are growing that the Government is no longer being held to account.

Relations between the Government and the BBC are now as bad as in the mid-Eighties when Norman Tebbit savaged the coverage of the Libyan bombing.

In the run-up to the election and immediately afterwards, Gordon Brown, Harriet Harman, Clare Short and Geoffrey Robinson were regular media performers. But in recent months, after the argument between Labour spin-doctors and the Today programme over Ms Harman's grilling by Mr Humphrys on lone parents,

Rise of 'invisible politicians' angers broadcasters, write Nicholas Wood and Carol Midgley

Ministers have retreated to their Whitehall bunkers or opted for the less demanding daytime TV.

Ministers embroiled in political or personal controversy, such as Mr Robinson; Ms Harman; Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor; and Ms Short play particularly hard to get when the likes of Humphrys, Paxman and Clarke come calling.

Mr Robinson, a key Treasury figure, has declined offers to talk about the economy on any prime BBC news programme since last August. By the late autumn he was embroiled in controversy over his tax affairs and he has apparently been told he can only appear on a hard news programme "when he is completely exonerated".

Mr Brown refused all interview offers after his statement on public spending earlier this month, except for the worthy but obscure *The Money Programme*. On Thursday, he snubbed the BBC's request to

debate the country's mounting economic woes in favour of ITV's *GMTV* and *Richard and Judy* where he talked about Diana, Princess of Wales. The Government refused to field a single minister or backbencher on *Newsnight* after *The Sun's* attack on Tony Blair over the single currency.

Senior BBC executives are appalled. They say that the fashion for "Flopsy Bunny sofa TV" is deliberate. And they see it as a key element in new Labour's "bread and circuses" approach to manipulating public opinion. They do, however, exempt some ministers from criticism, citing John Prescott, Jack Straw, David Blunkett and Frank Dobson as being among the old-school politicians who do not fear a rough ride.

But ministers are just as dismissive of *The World at One* and its heavyweight cousins, the *Today* programme and *Newsnight*, which they courted in opposition. Their aides are particularly venomous about BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, presented by Mr Clarke.

The 30-minute lunchtime programme, which regularly used to set the political agenda, infuriated Labour during the election. Now ministers are taking revenge.

The Treasury team is probably the worst offender. The Chancellor has not appeared on the programme since January 5 — in stark contrast to the Tory era when Kenneth Clarke, his predecessor, was a fixture. Alastair Darling, the Chief Secretary and once a regular on the show, has also gone to ground.

The Chancellor's associates are unapologetic. *The World at One* bids almost every day for Treasury ministers to defend their economic record, but with little success.

"*The World at One* is a discredited news outlet because during the election they did barking, off-the-wall stories of no interest to the public. We do the *Today* programme now and again. But yesterday we did *GMTV* and *Richard and Judy*. *GMTV* has twice the audience

OFF THE AIR: Ministers ducking the questions



James Naughtie TODAY

Last interview Jan 5, 98

Brown gets about two bids a week to appear on the *Today* programme. The only ones taken seriously are those put directly to Charlie Whelan, his rumbustious press secretary. The Chancellor regards the programme as "responsible" and appears on it occasionally so long as he gets top billing at 8.10am.



Nick Clarke THE WORLD AT ONE

Last interview June 12, 98

The Treasury team of ministers loathes *The World at One*. The antipathy dates from the general election when Nick Clarke's team gave Labour a tough ride over the so-called "black hole" in its accounts and its twisting and turning over a self-off of air traffic control.



Jeremy Paxman NEWSNIGHT

Last interview Not since election

Jeremy Paxman enjoys an enviable reputation as the most robust and self-confident of interviewers. But this media footslogger rarely gets a chance to practise his skills on heavyweights like Brown. His programme is too late to matter much in the news management business.



GORDON BROWN

Last interview May 5, 98

Short can be relied upon to turn out for the occasional worthy interview about the latest famine or disaster to strike the Third World. But she remains a spin doctor's nightmare with her off-the-cuff candour.



CLARE SHORT

Last interview May 5, 98

Harman's last appearance on *Today* was a spectacular affair. At the height of the Labour rebellion over benefits to lone mothers, she was roasted alive by John Humphrys. It led to Labour threats of a boycott of all news and current affairs programmes.



HARRIET HARMAN

Last interview Aug 12, 97

Robinson has always been a backroom boy, and never more so than in *Today's* case. He has not appeared on the nation's political bulletin board since the election.



GEORFFREY ROBINSON

Last interview May 16, 98

She has appeared on the show relatively recently, which is almost "black hole" in its capacity as Minister for Women, she was talking about a conference in Belfast.

Last interview Dec 10, 97

As Paymaster-General, the affable Robinson should be natural for this key lunchtime programme, which is always looking for comment on the latest economic news. But he messed up badly with a rash forecast of inflation last summer and has never been back.

Last interview Never

As Paymaster-General, the affable Robinson should be natural for this key lunchtime programme, which is always looking for comment on the latest economic news. But he messed up badly with a rash forecast of inflation last summer and has never been back.

Last interview August 97

The formidable Ms Short should be natural for a programme that looks at issues in depth. But she fears that it tends to hype its stories and she is reluctant to become Paxman's quarry.

Last interview April 97

As Social Security Secretary, Harman ought to peak from the programme's willingness to tackle difficult subjects in depth. But she suppresses reluctance to see her future on Paxman's questioning.

Last interview Not since election

Given the political sensitivity of his financial affairs, it is little surprise that Paxman is least of all's Joseph. Admittedly, Robinson did an interview recently on the private finance initiative (PFI), but it was binned.



Labour praises Sir David Frost's style of interview

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"TUNISIA HAVE HAD 11 SHOTS AND COLUMBIA 12. AND YOU CAN'T GET MORE EVEN THAN THAT."

J.HILL.

For a more considered opinion, wait until Sunday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Tory loyalists face purge in row over 'cult church'

TORY chiefs are preparing a purge of previously loyal party stalwarts amid a deepening crisis over an alleged takeover by religious zealots.

About 30 Conservatives face the axe after deciding to support a rebel candidate in an Essex County Council by-election next month. Two senior activists have already been expelled after speaking out over the controversy in the Brentwood and Ongar association, which was triggered by the influx of 200 members of a fundamentalist Christian church, branded a cult by its critics.

Lily Slaymark, a Tory member for 25 years, is to stand as "a Conservative" against Frank Kenny, the official Conservative candidate, in protest at the alleged political hijack.

Under party rules, Mrs Slaymark, whose late husband was Tory Mayor of Brentwood, and her supporters will be thrown out of the party if they continue their campaign. Local party leaders are drawing up a list of Mrs Slaymark's helpers and there are reports of ugly clashes between them and the official canvassing team in the long-time Conservative stronghold.

The dispute also threatens to shatter the Conservatives' tenuous hold on the county council, where they chair key committees despite not having

Nicholas Wood reports on a local party split by support for a rebel candidate

an overall majority. Two Tory councillors are backing Mrs Slaymark. If they are expelled, effective control could pass to the Liberal Democrats.

Andrew Varney, the Tory agent in the seat, dismissed Mrs Slaymark's challenge as the "last gasp of the dinosaurs". He said that so far party chiefs had noted the names of eight rebel members.

"This is an entirely predictable group, who have been working together against the association over several years."

Mrs Slaymark described herself as a reluctant rebel, but added that she was determined to stand in the Hutton South ward on July 9 to draw attention to the way the Brentwood and Ongar Conservative Association had been "infiltrated" by the Perennial Pentecostal Church, which is based in Brentwood and run by Michael Reid, a self-styled bishop and a former policeman and

insurance salesman. Mrs Slaymark said she had decided to make her move after the death last November of her husband Alf, who had represented the area for 15 years.

After winning the overwhelming support of the Hutton South branch, she had been rejected by the selection committee of the full association. Branch leaders had resigned in protest and Mrs Slaymark wants an inquiry by Tory chiefs in London.

"It's a sad situation. It took a lot of soul-searching but I know it's what my husband would have wanted me to do. I am not rebelling. It is just that I cannot find any other way of making my voice heard."

One of her supporters, Judy Gray, a county councillor, said that she had been warned by Mr Varney that the rebels would be purged. "I said that I was not supporting the opposition. As far as I am concerned Lily is a Conservative."

Mrs Gray said that the local Tory association was now "more or less" controlled by the church faction.

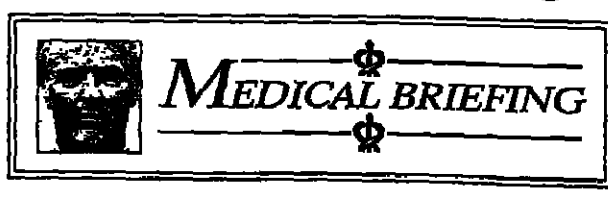
Yvonne Grace, a former member of the ruling executive of the local party, said that she was supporting Mrs Slaymark because she had been treated disgracefully and because the association had fallen into the hands of a "cult".

Mystery complicates Hague's illness

TO DOCTORS, the interesting question is not why a respiratory tract infection in what passes for summer should have struck William Hague so low for so long, but why it has now given rise to a definable complication.

Young men with a robust immune system should normally shrug off these infections in the summer months. If, however, they are tired, anxious, depressed, overworked and have too little sleep, their T-cells — the first line of attack of their immune system — are reduced.

The sinuses are the air-filled cavities in the bones of the skull around the nasal spaces. When they become inflamed, infection is usually



spread up from the nose, along the narrow passages which normally drain the mucus from the sinuses into the top of the nose. Once infected and inflamed, sinuses give rise to a throbbing headache, a constant feeling of heaviness over the face and forehead, and a stuffed-up nose.

The degree of general malaise and the height of the temperature will depend upon the organism. Antibiotics, taken with anti-congestants as soon as the attack starts, will usually clear the condition but if not, an operation is needed. Some, including the Caldwell-Luke in which a gouge and hammer is used to make an artificial hole in the sinus so that it may drain into the mouth, now seem rather simplistic and in sophisticated circles endoscopy can be used.

Although Mr Hague's voice has a nasal quality, this is

more likely to be the result of his Yorkshire influences than chronically infected sinuses. His diction will not be revolutionised by surgery.

Mr Hague should now make an uneventful recovery. As the fortunes of the Conservative party improve so will his T-cell count. Until then, he should look to his lifestyle and try to get more early nights. His martial art in the gym with Sebastian Coe should not be over-vigorous, as violent exertion reduces the body's immunity and if the patient has a temperature, it can damage the heart.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Bullying' tribunal teacher wins case

A teacher who was sacked from an independent girls' school over allegations that she bullied pupils won her case for unfair dismissal yesterday.

Clare Head, 54, lost her job at St David's School, in Ashford, Surrey, after parents complained that she let too much homework and forced children to eat their greens. An industrial tribunal in Croydon dismissed the teacher's claims that she had been victimised, but ruled that the school's investigation of parental complaints was flawed. A decision on compensation was reserved.

Pilot jailed

A pilot travelling to London as a passenger got so drunk he decided to land a hand. Staggering to the flight deck, Raimo Ahti, 53, muttied. "I have to help the captain. He doesn't know what he's doing," Ahti, who flies for Finnair, was jailed for four months at Isleworth Crown Court after admitting being drunk on an aircraft on May 2.

Stress damages

A former train driver involved in a series of rail accidents has been awarded £125,000 in damages for stress by Liverpool High Court. Clive Barry, 35, from Ellesmere Park in Cheshire, was involved in four fatal incidents between 1988 and 1992. He retired on health grounds after driving an empty train which was derailed in 1993.

Soldiers charged

Two British soldiers serving in Cyprus have been charged with assault and causing actual bodily harm after a British tourist, Daniel Fiffe-Flow, 20, was attacked in a disco in Protaras. Luke Metso, 21, and Binny Gunn, 22, were released after making statements, but police are looking for a third soldier, Michael Wood, 20, who allegedly fled.

Escaped bull shot

A bull that escaped from a slaughterhouse was shot by a police marksman as it fell into a river and became trapped. Police in Stratton-on-Avon used a helicopter and a team of dogs as they searched for the bull. Bents were warned to protect their children and drivers were alerted to the danger of a possible collision.

It really is butter

Anchor's Spreadable and Ammix butters qualify for the same lower rate of import duty as old-fashioned butter, a High Court judge ruled. Mr Justice Dyson rejected the claim by Customs and Excise that they were "recombined" products not made "directly" from milk or cream as defined in EU law. Customs was granted leave to appeal.

RAC man hurt

A 6ft RAC man was punched by a woman driver on his first day in a new job in Bristol after their cars were involved in a minor shunt. She got out of her car, shouted abuse at Walsley Narby, struck him three times, and sped. Mr Narby, 30, was taken to hospital with whiplash, a fractured cheekbone, facial bruising, and shock.

Coq au van

A stubborn cockerel travelled 100 miles clinging to the axle of a farmer's van as seeds of up to 60mph. John Godley, of Marston, Oxford, only discovered the bird when he heard it crowing at the end of his return journey from Oxford to Cheltenham. He investigated after his friends thought the noise was a new bird-theft alarm.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

VALERIE GROVE MEETS: SUSAN GREENFIELD
On a mission to explain

Anyone who has heard Susan Greenfield discussing on the human brain... more THRILLING, than finding out about how the brain works?

She also may one day have a huge impact on our lives, since she is working on how to alleviate what our ageing society fears and dreads: Alzheimer's disease.

It is the brain's consciousness that fascinates her, not its competence in learning and memory skills. We know that the average computer can outsmart a biological brain.

And it's connections in the brain that are paramount, not the number of neurons themselves. At her school, Godolphin and Latymer in West London, she opted for classics in the sixth form.



Professor Susan Greenfield, who is to become director of the Royal Institution. She says her training in Latin and Greek equipped her to tackle the big questions

factory in the East End, and lost all his money, a riches-to-rags story. Her mother ran away from school and became a chorus girl in Ensa shows for the forces.

Discs without a moment's hesitation, despite being entirely unmusical. Her choices included Brown Sugar, I Heard It Through the Grapevine, Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien, and "to my husband's horror", Beethoven's Ninth.

cast." On cue her mobile phone rang: it was her television agent. We were in her office in the Department of Pharmacology.

Here she and her colleague Dr David Vaux, a pathologist, have set up a company called Synaptica with venture capital.

think that tomorrow we're going to get a cure. The media, of course, are only interested in breakthroughs. "A discovery makes bad copy," she says.

Inspired familiarity breeds content

OPERA Falstaff Coliseum

English National Opera's timing has been impeccable this season. Late last year, ten days after Chris Smith proposed his hare-brained scheme for shoving the company into the redeveloped Covent Garden, it mounted Matthew Warchus's production of Verdi's comedy, which demonstrated with blinding clarity just why ENO is so valuable.

There can be few greater pleasures than sitting among a large audience hanging on every word being sung, stifling laughter lest they miss the next joke, not to mention the musical ones emanating from the pit.

Not that there is anything bloodless in Daniel's conducting. He risks moments of near-Wagnerian expansiveness - his tongue, like Verdi's, slyly approaching the cheek - and the farcical passages have the bite of a Shostakovich.

Many of the cast are the same as last November, notably Risa Cullis's hilarious, powerfully sung life-filior of an Alice Ford and Mary Plazas's wholly enchanting Nannetta, sweeter than ever and now partnered by Richard Coxon's ardent Fenton.

RODNEY MILNES

Opera & Ballet section listing various performances at Coliseum and Royal Albert Hall, including 'The Royal Ballet' and 'The Swan Lake'.

Theatres section listing performances at Apollo Victoria, Arts Theatre, and other venues, including 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare'.

Theatres section listing performances at Criterium, Fortune, and other venues, including 'The Redoubt' and 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare'.

Theatres section listing performances at London Palladium, Old Vic, and other venues, including 'Saturday Night Fever' and 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare'.

Theatres section listing performances at Open Air Theatre, Palace Theatre, and other venues, including 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare' and 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare'.

Theatres section listing performances at Phoenix, Plymouth, and other venues, including 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare' and 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare'.

Theatres section listing performances at Swan Theatre, Stratford, and other venues, including 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare' and 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare'.

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Don Williams 1998 Tour advertisement listing dates and venues across the UK, including Scarborough, Sunderland, and Liverpool.

Where even the World Cup is heresy

Ben Macintyre joins the secret worshippers of the football god

Football may be the new, all-pervasive religion (as Paris intellectuals have been loudly lamenting for the past three weeks), but there are still pockets of nonconformity in southern France, where heresy flourishes, just as it did eight centuries ago. "Once we worshipped God and his saints; then the motherland and the military, finally the revolution and its heroes. Today our God, our motherland, our revolution, is a round ball... football is a religion at the peak of its power. The stake awaits the heretics," ranted Jean d'Ormesson, the prominent writer and academician, in a recent article attacking the cult of soccer. But, as always, the view from Paris is very different from that in "La France Profonde", where refusal to bow to metropolitan rules, whether in terms of sport, taxes or organised religion, has been an article of faith for at least a millennium.

On the night of the England-Romania match, I found myself in a town in the Languedoc, just half an hour from Toulouse where "Le Big Match", as one Paris newspaper had described it, was already under way. Given the proximity of the game, the publicity surrounding English hooliganism and the words of d'Ormesson et al, I had naturally assumed that every town in the region would be in a state of pseudo-religious soccer fervor.

We watched the match; devotees in reverential silence

The Bar des Sports, confusingly, was closed. The clientele at four of the town's five other bars were idly watching television, but not football. Men were playing pétanque in the town square. Adolescents, who by rights should have been glued to a screen, were smoking in the bus shelter. The lack of World Cup mania was positively eerie.

Baffled, I quizzed the barmaid at the last bar in town. "So you want the football do you? You've struck lucky," she said, her southern vowels twanging like rubber bands, before leading me to a back room. Inside, through the gloom and smoke, ten pairs of eyes turned simultaneously from the television, as if guiltily surprised. We watched the match in reverential silence and, at the end, a man wearing a plastic Panama hat shook my hand and we filed out into the night without a word, like devotees leaving an illicit religious ritual.

Football has not fully converted this part of France, with its long history of ideological independence and heretical beliefs. In the rest of the country it might be blasphemous to miss a World Cup match; here, amid the general indifference, it felt oddly heretical to be watching one.

Languedoc has long declined to be an "orthodox" part of France. The heretical creed of the Cathars or Albigensians

(named after the city of Albi) took root here in the Middle Ages. Pope Innocent III launched the Albigensian Crusade in 1208. Independent Languedoc was annexed to France and in 1244 the last heretic fortress fell and its 200 Cathar defenders burnt alive en masse. But the Cathar heresy, resting on the belief that the good, spiritual world is locked in endless combat with the devil-made physical world, smouldered on.

To the south of Toulouse, in the Pyrenees, lies the remote community of Montaliou, made famous by the French historian Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, whose remarkable study of medieval peasant life, based on the records of religious persecution in the village, was published 20 years ago. The Inquisition descended on the gentle Cathar heretics of Montaliou in 1318: some were sent to the stake, others were imprisoned and still others were made to wear a yellow cross sewn to their backs. The brutal repression organised by the repellent Bishop Jacques Fournier wiped out the last vestige of Catharism in France.

But what Le Roy Ladurie's great work also illustrated was an enduringly autonomous cast of mind peculiar to the region still known as "les Pays Cathars". "The brave fight put up by the peasants of Montaliou to preserve the remains of their heretical beliefs fore-shadowed the great Protestant revolt two centuries later," he wrote.

Now the World Cup has provided a fresh opportunity for French thinkers to worry that France is being swamped by a single, orthodox, hegemonic culture. "Football has become one of the dominant themes of our times. It may have taken the place once occupied by religion... There is not a French politician who would dare to say that he is not interested in football," d'Ormesson declared.

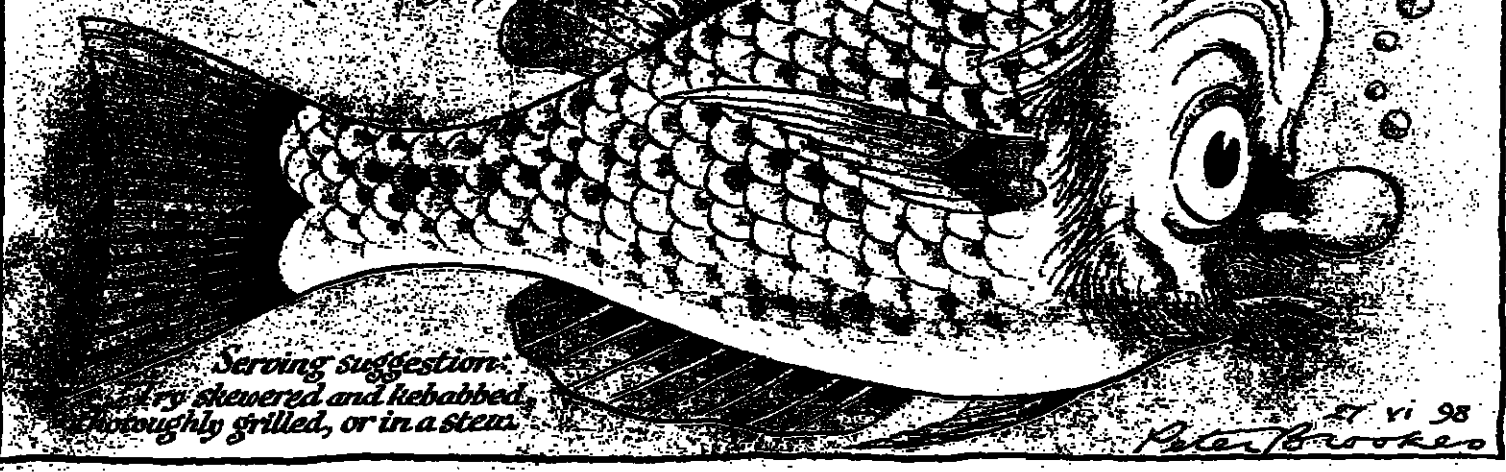
Far from Paris, however, the new religion holds little obvious sway. "I'll only watch the semi-finals and finals," one Languedocian told me, in precisely the tone of the Christmas and Easter-only churchgoer. Here, the idea that "several millennia of art and culture and history now only serve to support football" seems faintly bizarre. Except, that is, to the true believer.

I returned to the bar to find my fellow backroom worshippers before last night's game, and found the man in the plastic Panama nursing a contemplative beer. "Only one thing is certain," he said in a devout undertone, much as the Cathar missionaries of Montaliou must once have addressed their heretical disciples. "Hoddlie has got to play the boy Owen from the opening whistle."

NATURE NOTES

Red Snapper (*Cookis irascibilis*)

Caught in Sierra Leone waters, it indulges in a disgusting and distressing act of self-destruction (see Fig.1)



Serving suggestion: *very steamed and kebabs, or in a stew.*



Fig.1 Total self-absorption

The lark descending

We can't simply blame trigger-happy French hunters for Britain's silent skies

In an early episode of *Yes, Minister*, the politician Jim Hacker is discussing the targeting of British nuclear missiles. He assumes that they are aimed at the Russians. "Good Lord, no," says Sir Humphrey. "We aim them at the real enemy, the French."

Quite right, too. Last week the French parliament responded to the European Union's Birds Directive in typically Gallic fashion. The purpose of the directive is to limit the hunting season to protect wildlife. France lengthened its hunting season. Killing wild birds is apparently traditional in France, like making cheese, and European directives are therefore disregarded. French hunters are to migrate birds what Spanish small-mesh trawlermen are to fish. They kill everything that moves — but traditionally.

British bird-lovers have reacted in an equal and opposite fashion. Our children are depicted standing on the White Cliffs of Dover, binoculars and Hovis sandwiches in hand, awaiting the arrival of the much-loved swallow and house martin. They do not come. Where are the birds, pained faces ask Father, eyes brimming with tears. The French have eaten them, says Father.

The best argument against Britain joining the European Union was always that it would be the only member. The notorious Italian Commissioner Ripa di Meana used to publish his annual list of dirty beaches, of which most were in Britain and none in Italy. The reason, he once admitted, was that only the British took any notice. Greek and Spanish hoteliers likewise ignore Europe's employment and safety laws. Pass them all, cry European parliamentarians. Only the idiot British will enforce them.

So now with birds. The idea that French politicians could care less about the Bird Directive is absurd. The French have ignored it for the past 19 years with impunity, because Brussels is Francophile and turns a blind eye. This week the French assembly blithely added six weeks to its summer shooting season, bringing it back through July, and added a month in the spring to cover the key migrating periods. The French hunting lobby is said to make America's gun lobby look like wimps. Green is not a colour known in France.

Brussels has at last taken the French to court. After two decades of inaction, this is hardly suggests any

serious commitment. The French Government will continue to defy the directive, while doubtless accusing those who wish to enforce it of being "un-communautaire". For four years the French have snubbed a Brussels order banning the annual ball-out of its loss-making national airline. But Air France is a lapwing compared with the condors of the French hunting lobby. The thought of one songbird making it across the Channel to an English garden is enough to have every French arms manufacturer working overtime.

While Air France enjoys French Government protection, birds that recklessly enter French airspace on the way to Britain do not. Each year more species are added to the endangered "Red List" prepared by the British Trust for Ornithology. This week another nine were declared in danger, having lost more than half their populations since 1970. These are not just recondite aviators such as the osprey or the red kite, nor even the tragic nightingale, now down to no more than 5,000 nesting pairs. Extinction is now said to threaten the willow tit, turtle dove, song thrush, linnet, bullfinch, skylark, corn bunting, spotted flycatcher, tree sparrow and starling. I find the list astounding. That the starling, subject of Auden's "murmuration" and glory of the London gloaming, could ever vanish beggars belief.

Simon Jenkins

These creatures are more than the stuff of nature. They are English poetry on the wing. Threatened are Tennyson's "moaning" turtle doves; Hardy's darkling thrush "flinging his soul upon the growing gloom"; Gray's swallow "twittering from the straw-bell shed"; Yeats's linnets filling the evening air on Inisfree; and Hughes's skylark "ditching the sun with bird-joy". The chauvinists cry how can Britain permit this celestial chorus to be shot out of the sky by those boulevard Grenadiers, this Armée des Pères of French agriculture? And all for a mountain of pâté de campagne? Forget the World Cup.

every three minutes, breeds up to 12 goslings a year and grows so fat it doesn't bother to migrate. They should be shot. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, eager to exonerate all feathered things from nature's holocaust, rejects any link between predator birds and the decline of species. "Have you thought about cats?" said a spokesman, deftly steering me to even deeper waters. All I know is the evidence of the bird-table.

To the RSPB, and other serious conservationists, the cause of what seems an imminent catastrophe is neither the French nor predators, but mankind. Birds are ailing because of the degeneration of the rural ecology. The RSPB this week issued a report warning us that British wildlife was "bleeding to death". Half the sites meant to be protected as bird habitats were not protected. In an outspoken indictment of government inertia, it said that existing laws were simply not doing their job. There was a disastrous decline not just in rare birds such as the bittern, snipe and redshank, but in species once as common as the sparrow, the thrush

and the swallow. Any glance out of the window into any English garden will find it hard to light on those old familiar, the robin, house martin, song thrush or tit. The fields beyond are derelict of larks, corn buntings and corncrakes. Only the still endangered linnet is said to be rising in numbers, because it has developed a liking for oilseed rape stubble.

The trouble with this explanation is not implausibility but boredom. We read so much about what modern agro-chemicals have done to wildlife that we shrug. Guilt must be beyond redemption. Birds are being cleared from Britain's skies by being poisoned and starved by farmers. And British farmers are as potent a lobby for intensive farming subsidies and overgrazing incentives as French hunters are for a longer shooting season. I saw no "save the corncrake" banners at the recent countryside rally.

Agriculture's partner in this crime is Whitehall's campaign to let builders develop more rural land. Yesterday the Environment Secretary, John Prescott, was taken to court by West Sussex County Council over his plan to build 13,000 houses in that county. He has resisted the roadbuilders lobbying for ever more motorways to meet a rising "need" for cars. He is still putty in the hands of the developers arguing the same "need" for country houses. The British countryside is not safe for anyone, with or without wings.

We cannot protect birds without bruising someone's profit or impeding someone's sport. In this the British Government is as pusillanimous as the French. The conservation of birds is not a feature of modern countryside management in the sense that killing them now is. Perhaps we must accept what African wildlife experts know, that the best protection for any species is for enough people to enjoy killing it. Where would the grouse be without the gun?

That might do for a gamebird or even a raptor. But it spells the death of the songbird. Perhaps they too will one day have to be farmed. British birds, like those of Mao's agricultural revolution, will leave the fields and survive only as treasured pets. They will have become Tennyson's "Captives void of noble rage." The linnet born within the cage. (That never knew the summer woods".

Four legs good

Jeanette Winterson reconnects with our equine roots

The guy with the Brillo-pad hairdo and garage forecourt sunglasses learnt out of his throaty Cavalier to yell over the engine: "Where's yer road tax, you stupid bitch?"

It is true that a moment before I called him a dickhead. I had been riding my horse peacefully along a lane. I reined her in to wave past whatever it was that had been staking me close enough to wash its whiskers with the horse's tail. It was then that the Cavalier decided to fire on what was left of its exhaust.

My horse survived the cloud of black fumes and the rear pivot into the hedge, but the Cavalier driver clearly felt himself to be the injured party. After some moments of driving slowly ahead of me with his head on the wrong way round so that he could shout out of the window, he stopped the car in the middle of the road and stalked back to give me a good what-for. I suppose he was the kind of man used to telling women exactly what they were for, but it works less well when the woman is towering above you, with a whip, on a very excited horse.

My horse and I decided to trot on so that he was forced to do a bit of trotting himself to keep up. Then we reached the car, with only enough room for the horse and I to pass if we shoved our persecutor into the netles. With a neat flick of her hind-quarters, she skittered him in and we were away at a gallop, over the hedge and far beyond the cries of torment from Sarf London.

Later, in the stables, busy with brushing down and mucking out, I wondered if the root of the problem is really evolutionary; that just as dinosaurs and humans were never meant to be on the planet at the same time, neither are horses and automobiles.

It's strange, isn't it, that Chaucer's pilgrims could have trotted down the centuries quite comfortably in the saddle, until after the First World War, when reins hardened into steering wheels and stirrups slouched forward into pedals? The transformation was decisive, but the highway to the future could no longer connect us to the past. History lives best when it lives on; that is, when the strangeness of the past sits alongside its familiarity. Part of our modern alienation is not only loss of ritual, religion, institution, national identity, it is that we no longer do the things that our ancestors did, and their ancestors before them. All ages progress, but until our own century, the progress has been balanced by continuity.

The car. The horse. I decided to learn to ride because I realised that for most of recorded time, personal transport has meant two feet or four. In our cities and towns, where nearly everybody lives, few people walk and no one rides. This sudden change from the pattern of hundreds of years must have some effect on the psyche. We know that the increasingly sedentary habits of urban man are having a negative effect on the body, so what of the mind?

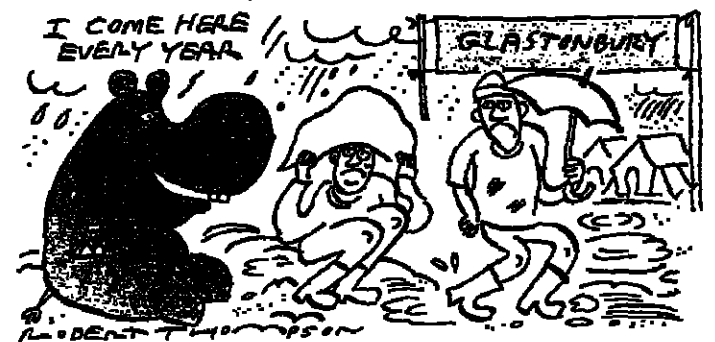
In the country, where I live, two feet and four are still common, and this may be some of the reason why country people are a lot less bonkers than their urban rivals.

The car. The horse. I don't want to give up either, or what they symbolise to me: progress, continuity, I need both. Yes both, though brotting down a country lane, I'm always glad when there's nothing close behind me but the past.

Camera shy

THE BBC has pulled out of plans to film a documentary of Earl Spencer's rock concert and the opening of the Althorp shrine to his sister Diana after a difference of opinion as to how much of the proceeds should go to charity. Producers say they decided to abandon the project because they feared all profits would not go to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Spencer, who harbours doubts about the fund's long-term future, felt that to prepare his tranquil estate for tonight's rock concert would be an expensive business, anyway. He will not decide how much money from the 15,000-ticket sales will go to charity until Monday. Coverage has gone to that well-known outfit Front Row, a cable consortium which will charge viewers £5.99 a peep.

It is unclear how many of its two million viewers will feel moved to tune in. Spencer (pictured) has struggled to sign top crooners. I learn that Sheryl Crow (left), the chanteuse, has pulled out, as have Wet, Wet, Wet. Instead viewers will be treated to the delights of Sir Cliff Richard and David Hasselhoff.

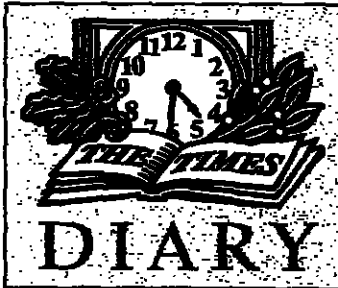


● MUD may disguise the greying beards and wrinkled cheeks, but if ever proof were needed that Glastonbury caters for a more mature rocker, one has only to observe the pushers: rather than touting Es and other fashionable chemicals, they apparently offer flagging festivalgoers Viagra.

Mad moments

WILLIAM SITWELL, the occasional poet and great-nephew of Dame Edith, is once again following in the family tradition. Next week he will make his debut as a stand-up comedian in a Soho theatre. During what he fears might be "one of the most humiliating moments of my life", he will crack jokes about tuff builders, joggers and shower curtains. I hope he gets more laughs than did his great-aunt. She once toyed with being a comedienne. The verdict? "Drivel they paid to hear," according to one critic. Still, young William is nothing if not brave. Recently he was introduced to "Mad" Frankie Fraser, the retired torturer. "Ah, Mr Fraser," he opened. "Or may I call you Mad?"

● CHRIS TARRANT may seem to be just another over-cheerful DJ, but his wife thinks he is a corporate demi-god. Ingrid Tarrant, a forthright blonde, jokes that whenever her husband suggests that he might leave his breakfast slot on London's Capital Radio, its share price crashes. "I told him he should tell me when he intends to drop these hints, so I can buy shares at a



Jasper Gerard

low price, then sell when he stays." Me fears that she overestimates her husband's worth...

Warm front

ANN MARIE FOSS, the economically clad Norwegian weathergirl



who brings a rare ray of sunlight to the otherwise murky Live TV, is growing chummy with Kelvin MacKenzie, her departing boss.

"We watch Millwall together, even though he has all these new projects," says the Ms Foss, alluding to MacKenzie's bid for Talk Radio. "He is excellent company and always gives me a ride home." Ms Foss, who was gracing Callaghan's Irish bar in Piccadilly, is heading off to France today to catch Italy v Norway. MacKenzie has sent his deep and sincere apologies.

● THE Prince of Wales is being coaxed into taking up golf by the Duke of York. After presenting awards to swingers at the Alfred Dunhill Celebrity Challenge at Wentworth, Prince Charles said he was being persuaded to drop his longstanding distaste for the game. "My brother is trying to get me to take up the game. I have told him that I will." His one proviso: that he can be allowed to carry on playing polo until age catches him.

Bedfellows

AN HOTEL used by Glenn Hoddle's England team has a lively past: it was their four-star fortress near St Omer, Château Tilques, that the then Tory MP David Ashby travelled with a male friend during a motoring holiday in 1994. The pair shared a queen-sized bed in a tastefully-furnished room. I just hope that the players' wives, who flew over to France last night, did not find the accommodation too squashed.



MOHAMED AL FAYED has inspired a range of "conspiracy art". Margarita Makarova, a Russian dauber, plans to exhibit a collection of paintings based on Al Fayed's fantastical theory that the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was the result of a conspiracy. Ms Makarova has taken his ramblings on board, and produced seven canvases. *Life and Death*, a section of which I print above, shows two "agents of the State" spying on a radiant, bejewelled Diana.

The full work, too grim to show in full, includes the Queen, a severed hand, the

Tower of London and a tangled branch to represent "the tentacles of the State". The sketcher says Al Fayed is "a continuing inspiration", and has written to Harrods, suggesting an exhibition. "I support Al Fayed because he wants to prove what really happened, which is very important," she tells me. "Her death was not an accident, it was a conspiracy. I offered Mr Al Fayed my support, my imagination and my paintings — not for sale, but for struggle." Harrods has indicated that a display might be in order now, so she is taking her daubs to Bond Street. I do not wish her well.

abx in 1550



PICKING WINNERS

Blair needs to choose more enterprising ministers

The most successful of all the morning steps on Labour's triumphal progress at the last election was held to be the launch of its business manifesto. The party's strategists were delighted at the breadth of business experience prepared to endorse Tony Blair, from small entrepreneurs in new technology to established names in traditional trades. Labour had kept its distance from business in the past. But, since the election, the Government has elevated sympathetic businessmen, like George Simpson, to the Lords and appointed others, such as Gerry Robinson and Martin Taylor, to public office. This Government has certainly been good for businessmen. But has it been good for business? Delays in the publication of the Transport White Paper and compromises around the reform of energy policy are only the latest indications that this administration is experiencing its own market failures.

With both energy and transport policy the indications are that only dramatic intervention is ensuring a bias towards the free market. The intervention appears to come direct from the Prime Minister, whose blue pencil has had to be deployed to prevent a sentimental subsidy for environmentally unfriendly coal and a battery of new penalties for the polluting motorist.

But Mr Blair cannot erase every error. Margaret Beckett has announced a moratorium on the building of gas-fired power stations which is an unnecessary restriction of commercial freedom. It will cause jobs to be lost and prices to remain higher than they otherwise would. It also sends a signal to the markets about the interventionist which still exists within this Government and which may deter future investors.

As for transport, although the motorist may be spared some of the more excessive penalties planned the Government is still not prepared to take the necessary free market steps to provide appropriate alternatives to the automobile. John Prescott's "Third Way" Tube proposals are stuck in an ideological twilight zone somewhere between Union Central and Market Junction.

A properly pro-market Government would be keen to move to full privatisation with all the speed the rickety system could take. But some ministers in this administration seem to regard the market much as Red Indians regarded the rifle. They speak of it with awe but no real understanding of how it operates.

That charge cannot be levelled at Mr Blair, whose instincts, whenever asserted, are on the side of the liberal angels. But the chairman of the board cannot run every division of the concern. He must find effective deputies, and delegate. How long can what was once the Department for Enterprise have at its head a Secretary of State who wanted to price the young out of jobs? How long should the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions continue to rejoice in the nickname "Moscow University" while its ministers conceive of ever more elaborate snares for the entrepreneur in the name of the environment? Are the men and women in these departments really business's best friends in new Labour?

Perhaps the most obstructive thicket through which business must hack is the burgeoning growth of employment regulation. The shifting of the burden of proof in sex discrimination cases is illiberal in principle and will prove expensive in practice. The lifting of the ceiling on awards in industrial tribunals is an invitation to the grudge-bearer to bankrupt the small businessman. The introduction of compulsory trade union recognition could make sections of the demilitarized zone which is British industrial relations a battlefield once again.

Mr Blair is, understandably, anxious to keep together the coalition which brought him to power. But he must appreciate that it will be delivering prosperity to individuals, not promises to interest groups, which will help secure his re-election. The best guarantee of that prosperity, and his second term, is acting tough in favour of choice, competition and enterprise.

MONASTIC SECLUSION

The modern world should stop short of Mount Athos

For more than a thousand years monks have been living a life of prayer and contemplation on the easternmost rocky promontory of the Chalcidic Peninsula in northern Greece. Mount Athos, where 20 monasteries cling to the edges of the vertiginous cliffs, is a unique spiritual and political entity: a semi-autonomous republic where Orthodox draws monks from across the Christian world to a life of spartan asceticism amid some of the richest splendours of ecclesiastical art. A prohibition, enacted to underline the retreat from the physical world, has for centuries barred women and all female animals from the mountain. But now, as even the Orthodox Church feels the tide of the 20th century lapping around its traditions, Mount Athos is facing a challenge: feminists are demanding entry.

Women scholars, historians and pilgrims, especially in America, complain of discrimination. Last year two MEPs petitioned the European Court to abolish the ban. They lost. But their grievances are gaining ground. The churches within the monasteries contain some of the finest examples of Byzantine icons and treasures.

Yet to touch the fabric of this extraordinary community would risk disturbing a brittle balance that has survived schism and heresy, secular encroachment and interference. Feminist demands for admission are only the latest unsettling manifestations of modernity. Fifteen years ago a crisis blew up when Moscow, fearful of losing control of once rich Russian monasteries, sent in a

wave of young monks whose loyalty came under question.

Athens is sensitive to all questions surrounding Mount Athos, especially in the midst of the present debate on the separation of Church and State. Archbishop Christodoulou, a liberal intellectual appointed only a few months ago, has taken office after a period of difficult relations. But neither the Government nor the Greek Church has the final say over Athos. For this community, predating the secular state by hundreds of years, is ultimately answerable to the Ecumenical Patriarch resident in what the Church still refers to as Constantinople. He is most unlikely to contemplate any change.

Many Greek women argue that Mount Athos, quaintly anachronistic in its structure and regime, is a false issue for feminism. There are far more questions, of more contemporary relevance to women in the Orthodox Church today, that demand scrutiny and dialogue. The ban on women is not misogynist: it came from the ancient recognition that without the female, life is unsustainable. It was to underline their commitment to the ascetic that the monks excluded from their mental landscape evidence of procreation. Mount Athos is unique. Its character, and the values which sustain it, have endured for far longer than the current pressure for every institution to conform to a particular secular notion of sexual equality. It should not have to open its doors too precipitately to a world of changing fashions.

THE SAGE AT 60

Making people laugh is no joke: it's high art and hard work

Cricklewood lies north east of Willesden, half in Brent and half in Barnet, bisected by the Edgware Road. The name comes from a dialect word meaning "bend", and refers to the shape of the wood that once grew on the car park of Tesco's. After that the guidebooks fall silent. No battle was fought at Cricklewood Brook, not even a minor skirmish. No statesman was born in this marginal parish. No poet lived here. The only blue plaques are those in the telephone boxes advertising exotic discipline.

And yet Cricklewood has become one of the best-known of British suburbs. This is the work of Alan Coren, the Sage of Cricklewood. He is 60 today. But he will not thank us for bringing his birthday to your attention, since it will deprive him of grist for his keyboard. He has put Cricklewood on his map in the way that Neasden and Bill Bryson put Des Moines on the map. The difference is that Coren makes us love Cricklewood as well as laugh with it.

Most national journalists write from exotic datelines about "important" subjects. But most of their readers live ordinary lives in suburbs much like Cricklewood. It is Coren's art to discover the humour as well as the humanity of the suburbs. Readers who will never cross the oceans to London still laugh affectionately at the suburban accidents of life.

Because most people fancy that they can write, some fools fancy that consistent top-class journalism is easy. But the daily deadline is a runaway train. The attention of

newspaper readers is fragile and fickle. There comes a time when even the most meticulous writer must light his last gas, stop polishing and file his column. And the hardest patch in the whole muddy field of journalism is the humorous column. Other journalists can seize the attention with significant news, or sensational nudes, or opinionated views. But the funnyman has to milk his laughs from the little accidents of his fantasy. The slender peg for his story is his fantasy.

So if anybody were silly enough to ask when this distinguished former editor of *Punch* and scholar of American literature was going to produce his magnum opus, the answer would be "Circumspice you fool. Read his column." The best bits of the Bayeux Tapestry are not the kings, magnates and warriors performing *1066 and All That* in the middle. It is the ordinary folk going about their everyday business in the margins that stick in the memory: the man stealing a chicken, those priapic monks.

In the same way historians centuries hence might learn more about the way we live now from Coren's Cricklewood columns than from weightier dispatches sent by correspondents in Westminster and Washington. He may protest that his voice is broken, his wind short, his chin double, his wit single, and every part of him blasted with senexagenarianism. But he is still the funniest young scribbler in the ink trade. Happy birthday, Alan. And the deadline for your next column is Tuesday lunchtime.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Peanington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Selection the key to better schools

From Mr Julian Dare

Sir, In his article today, "Action this day at school", David Blunkett says: "So the effective use of setting by subject ability must play a central role in comprehensive schools, because for the most part mixed ability teaching lets down many of those who are above — or below — the average."

I believe that if this fundamental insight had been implemented at the very beginning of comprehensive education, the whole course of education in this country would have been extremely different. I taught for 13 years in an independent school where setting by subject ability was the norm and results consequently good. I then transferred in 1979 to a large comprehensive which was moving away from mixed ability classes to setting by subject ability. On occasions when I taught a high ability set examination results compared very favourably with those at my previous school.

In mixed ability or bottom-set groups one or two rogue pupils can severely disrupt the education of their fellow pupils. But that is a social rather than an educational problem at root.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN DARE,
26 Russell Court, St Margaret's Road,
Oxford OX2 6JH,
June 23.

From Lord Baker of Dorking, CH

Sir, The fact that the Government has raised £19 million from industry to be spent in schools over three years — ie, £6 million a year — in the new education action zones is good news (report and leading article, June 23); but its importance should not be exaggerated. When I launched the City Technology Colleges in 1986 we raised £44 million from industry for these innovative new schools, focused on the new computer-based technologies.

The secret of the CTCs' success was their independence from local education authorities and their right to select pupils according to their aptitude and their parents, when a commitment to the college and its ethos was sought. These colleges are now the most popular schools in their neighbourhoods and they have formed the basis of an extended network of over 250 technology and specialist colleges.

The present Government is dedicated to improving the level of standards in education of all our children — so were we. The 1997 school examination results showed the greatest improvement in standards ever recorded in our country. So, the CTCs and the grant-maintained schools did not damage other schools: standards all round improved.

The Government's right hand in education is doing well, but its left hand is doing positive damage. Good schools result from LEAs doing less and schools doing more. The Government is right to hand over 100 per cent of a school's budget to the school, but wrong to restrict schools' ability to select some of their pupils by aptitude and ability. The success of the grant-maintained schools depended upon their freedom from LEAs and the interviews that the schools gave to their pupils and their parents.

Doesn't Tony Blair recall the interview with the Headmaster of the London Oratory School and the undertakings he gave? The Government should amend the School Standards and Framework Bill in order to allow that to continue.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH BAKER
(Secretary of State for Education and Science, 1986-89),
House of Lords,
June 23.

Safety in the air

From Sir Malcolm Field, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority

Sir, I would like to reassure readers of Mr Tony Blackman's letter (June 18) that the public-private partnership proposed for National Air Traffic Services will not undermine the high safety standards that currently obtain in UK airspace.

Every aspect of NATS' operations is subject to the rigorous safety regulation procedures applied by an independent regulator. That is a legal requirement and will continue to be so, whether NATS is in the public or the private sector. In addition, NATS will be subject to economic regulation to ensure that there is absolutely no question of profits being put before safety.

At present, the safety regulation of all UK air traffic services is in the very capable hands of the CAA's Safety Regulation Group. These specialists are as independent from NATS as they can possibly be under present circumstances, but the CAA board has concluded that the only satisfactory solution is for complete separation between NATS and its regulator.

The arrangements now being proposed not only provide an innovative solution to meeting the growing air traffic demands of the next century, but also strengthen and rationalise the safety regulation of UK air traffic control in a way that is not possible at present.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM FIELD,
Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority,
CAA House,
45-59 Kingsway, WC2B 6TE,
June 18.

'Rollickings' at the summer equinox

From Mr Paul Ashbee

Sir, It is manifest that the druidical solstice rollickings at Stonehenge sanctioned by English Heritage (leading article, June 23) seriously detract from its dignity and lack the respect that should be accorded to Europe's premier prehistoric monument, the focus of a World Heritage area.

Druidical performances at Stonehenge began during the first decade of this century and originate in 18th-century romantic historical fantasy. They have nothing to do with the Druids mentioned by Caesar, Pliny, Tacitus and other Roman writers. Of their usages and rites we know nothing, and may never know anything, and there is no evidence that they had anything to do with Stonehenge.

It is the duty of English Heritage to protect Stonehenge and its supportive landscape, not bring to it present-day fantasy and pseudo-history. These antics and attitudes scarcely enhance England's reputation for exact and efficient archaeological scholarship.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL ASHBE (Member,
Royal Commission on Historical
Monuments (England), 1975-85),
The Old Rectory,
Chedgrave, Norwich NR14 6ND,
June 22.

From Dr Chris Forester

Sir, To berate the Druids for watering down their paganism (leading article, June 23) is as absurd as to berate modern Christians for refusing to launch another Crusade.

Perhaps we should rather credit the Druids for moving their belief system forward so that it makes sense to many people in our modern culture, while rejecting the outdated values of the distant past, something the Church often tragically fails to do.

Carl Jung predicted some of this: nothing how so many of his contemporaries were starving for living spiritual symbols, he called upon Christianity to have some room for the feminine, for nature, and for a better integration of sexuality into our religion. He warned that if Christianity failed to do this it would "remove itself from the spiritual battlefield."

Trial by jury

From Mr Trevor Grove

Sir, In his reflections on the Louise Woodward affair (June 24), Simon Jenkins suggests that in my new book *The Jurymen's Tale* I support the belief that "juries embody a popular, democratic wisdom that eludes professional and justifies the exorbitant delay and expense of the jury system."

I do believe that 12 ordinary men and women, acting together in this daunting undertaking, are generally capable of achieving a high degree of collective wisdom. But it would be absurd to suggest that such wisdom eludes the professionals. Judges sitting on their own, as in Northern Ireland, are obviously quite capable of deciding on the facts of a case as justly and more speedily than juries.

The argument for juries is not that they are better judges of facts but that they legitimise the execution of the criminal law in a unique and inspiring way. It is a good thing that no one in this country can be sent to jail for longer than six months without a dozen of his fellow citizens agreeing to it. It is a good thing that, thanks to the presence of the jury, the defendant will have his case tried in language he can understand.

I agree with Simon Jenkins that our contempt of court rules and our refusal to allow cameras in court protect juries from coming under undue pressure. Long may that continue to be so. But it is odd that while he dismisses juries as being "notoriously lenient", he also says Miss Woodward should be entitled to the benefit of the doubt. Unlike possibly case-hardened judges and magistrates, juries do tend to lean in favour of giving defendants that benefit. That is another argument in their favour.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR GROVE,
14 Avenue Road, N6 5DW,
June 24.

Royal gongs

From Mrs Rosemary Crawford

Sir, One hopes that Bulgaria's King Simeon II is not disappointed in his proposed sale at Sotheby's of his grandfather King Ferdinand's Order of the Bath (Diary, June 20). Certainly, 60 years ago, Buckingham Palace successfully stopped the Sotheby's sale of both the Garter and Order of the Bath awarded by Edward VII to Nicholas II's brother, Grand Duke Michael Aleksandrovich, proclaimed Tsar in 1917 and murdered in June 1918.

As you reported with some surprise on December 12, 1988, it is a rule when a member of either Order dies for his heir to return the insignia to the authorities. There has, however, been a general impression that the rule did not apply to royalty, British or foreign.

French 'pennies'

From Mr M. R. Weale

Sir, I would add to Mr Winston Fletcher's entertaining letter today another link between our currency and that of our French neighbour. Money fell into disuse in the Dark Ages. In the 8th century it was reintroduced into England and the currency adopted was that already circulating in France. A pound of silver was cut into 240 pennies.

This early monetary union did not last because the French were prone to debase their currency. Their money, renamed the franc, now stands at over 1,000 (10 new francs) to the pound.

On the other hand the pound itself has not done too badly. Today you quote silver at £3.25 per oz or £38.7 per pound. In silver terms the pound has about one-fourth of its value under the Saxon kings. According to my calculations this represents an inflation rate of 0.3 per cent per annum over 1,200 years.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. WEALE,
National Institute of Economic and Social Research,
2 Dean Trench Street, SW1P 3HE,
mweale@niesr.ac.uk
June 24.

I agree that all this prancing about in robes of ancient style while muttering obscure ritual without the courage to stand by the words seems very strange; but that's why I stopped going to church. And as for the civilising influence of Christianity, one should perhaps recall that its priesthood as we know it, its doctrinal formulations, its festivals and its greatest art all owe more to classical Greco-Roman paganism than to the Bible.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER FORESTER,
Meadow View, Limes Close,
Tenterden, Kent TN30 7BB,
avalon@easytel.co.uk
June 22.

From Mr Guy Perkins

Sir, As someone who has lived in the middle of Avebury stone circle for many years, I was interested in your leading article today on the "watered-down paganism" in evidence at Stonehenge. Whenever I see a Druid get out of his car and don his robes I wait to see whether he has brought an animal or first-born child to sacrifice, but so far have always been disappointed.

New Ageism is a pick'n'mix of different beliefs to create an unchallenging patchwork panacea. Nowadays visitors to Avebury often dance, sing, and hug the stones. I suspect that in its original form it was a place of awe and blood.

As has become usual in recent years, thousands descended upon the village last weekend for the equinox celebrations, most of them here just for a party, and most pretty well behaved. What I do deplore, though, is the craze for drumming for hours on end to get in touch with the Earth goddess, which never fails to get me in touch with a migraine. After being kept awake until 2 o'clock on Sunday morning, I found myself surprisingly delighted to be woken three hours later by a small group of worshippers singing Christian hymns. It brought to mind "a still small voice".

Yours sincerely,
G. PERKINS,
6 Green Street, Avebury,
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1RE,
June 22.

ing way. It is a good thing that no one in this country can be sent to jail for longer than six months without a dozen of his fellow citizens agreeing to it. It is a good thing that, thanks to the presence of the jury, the defendant will have his case tried in language he can understand.

I agree with Simon Jenkins that our contempt of court rules and our refusal to allow cameras in court protect juries from coming under undue pressure. Long may that continue to be so. But it is odd that while he dismisses juries as being "notoriously lenient", he also says Miss Woodward should be entitled to the benefit of the doubt. Unlike possibly case-hardened judges and magistrates, juries do tend to lean in favour of giving defendants that benefit. That is another argument in their favour.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR GROVE,
14 Avenue Road, N6 5DW,
June 24.

Nevertheless, the Palace made clear that a "general impression" was not good enough, and Michael's penniless widow, Natasha, was obliged to hand back his insignia.

It will be interesting to see if a frown from the Palace still means as much now as it did then. However, King Simeon would be advised to treat cautiously any hint that the Palace might make some *ex gratia* payment in lieu of the £15,000 he is hoping for from Sotheby's. That's what happened in Natasha's case. She was still waiting for a cheque when she died 14 years later in a charity hospital in Paris.

Yours etc,
ROSEMARY CRAWFORD
(Co-author, *Michael & Natasha*,
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1997),
14 St Saviour's Place, York YO1 2PJ,
June 20.

From Mr C. E. A. Cheesman

Sir, Coins and banknotes are "legal tender" not by virtue of the fact that they may be offered in settlement of a debt, but of the fact that, having been so offered, they must be accepted. French 10-centime pieces may have been used here in the 19th century, but they were not legal tender. Tradesmen did not have to accept payment offered in foreign coin, but were, of course, at liberty to do so.

The euro, on the other hand, will presumably be more than just a current and widely accepted means of exchange. If adopted here, it will have the full force of legal tender.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE CHEESMAN
(Curator of Roman coins),
British Museum,
Great Russell Street, WC1B 3DG,
coins@british-museum.ac.uk
June 24.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Commons vote on age of consent

From the Archdeacon of York

Sir, It was Bishop John Robinson's book, *Honest to God*, published in 1963, which popularised a fundamental shift in ethical understanding in its dismissal of absolutism in favour of a moral relativism which took love as the only basis for morality.

Its fatal flaw was its idealisation of human love by falsely assuming that it would and could be without self-interest. Moral relativism gave respectability to the permissiveness which began in the Sixties and which has had such a devastatingly bad effect on society. Added to this, the increasing emphasis on human rights without a corresponding acceptance of human responsibility greatly added to our problems.

However, in your editorial of June 22, "Coming out for change", you take this weakening of the concept of moral absolutes a massive leap forward by suggesting that a change in the moral aspect of law is justified if the people "are now ready". Leaving aside the highly questionable assumption that the British people as a whole (rather than an activist minority of the chattering classes) are ready to agree that the sodomising of 10-year-olds is merely a matter of human rights, legal safeguards on moral matters surely cannot be simply a matter of what is acceptable to society.

If it were, then on the one hand the fact that many would see no sin in cheating the taxman or breaking the speed limit would require that such activities should be decriminalised. And on the other hand, public support for capital punishment would have meant that Parliament could not have supported its abolition and the man recently released from 23 years in prison for a crime he did not commit could well have been hanged (letters, June 13 and 17).

Lawmaking is not morally neutral, since it guides the attitudes of society regardless of whether or not it is shaped by them. Because all power tends to corrupt, a society in which the morality that is expressed in law depended on the whim of the people would quickly be as corrupt as the most powerful and vocal could engineer.

Yours,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
North Back House, Main Street,
Wheldrake, York YO19 6AG,
June 23.

From Bishop Philip Goodrich

Sir, Malcolm Johnson (letter, June 23) refers to your "thoughtful and wise leader". He then ignores that part of your leader which maintains the essential balance. You write that those who counsel caution are moved by a regard for the gift of sexual love as an instrument, not just of pleasure, but a sacramental act of human creativity which is diminished when seen in a purely hedonistic light.

The Commons have voted. Whether we agree with them or not, there remains an important continuing dialogue on the proper place of sex in human life. This is such a vital issue that it requires the participation, in a civilised and informed way, of all concerned people.

How are the new freedoms to be handled in such a way that they do not become destructive, with love, constancy and happiness still eluding us? Merely, for example, to talk about "safe sex" is not enough. There is a principle at the heart of the matter which, if neglected, means that we all suffer.

Yours faithfully
PHILIP GOODRICH,
Ordis Farm, Sutton St Nicholas,
Hereford HR1 3AY.

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, "Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites," said Edmund Burke, that great parliamentarian. One wonders what he would have thought of this lot.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD KAUKAS,
13 Lynwood Road, Ealing W5 1JQ.

A bit of a blow

From Mr W. B. Petrie

Sir, Your picture today of the *MV Greenpeace* in the offshore wind farm is interesting. But, Sir, why is she not a sailing ship?

Yours sincerely,
W. B. PETRIE,
Leigh Wood, Sandy Lane,
Crawley Down, Sussex RH10 4HX,
June 23.

Smooth men

From Mrs Margaret Wheeldon

Sir, How does the husband of Mrs Jane Cooper (letter, June 26) iron whilst holding his beer and crisps?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET WHELDON,
Sound Ground,
Dalham, Newmarket CB8 8TJ,
June 26.

From Mr John Smart

Sir, What is ironing?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN SMART,
68 Woodbourne Avenue, SW16 1UT,
June 26.

OBITUARIES

JACK PENDER

Jack Pender, painter and teacher, died on June 20 aged 80. He was born on June 1, 1918.



Pender and his painting of the Penlee lifeboat Solomon Browne, lost with all hands in December 1981

Acting as chairman of the Mousehole Harbour Authority following the Penlee lifeboat disaster of December 1981. Jack Pender represented the village as one of the trustees of the fund which was set up to assist the bereaved and their children in the wake of the tragedy which claimed the lives of the lifeboat's entire eight-man crew. On that occasion, there were also eight victims from the complement and passengers of the freighter Union Star, the vessel to whose aid the lifeboat Solomon Browne had gone in mountainous seas when the stricken ship was drifting towards the granite rocks of the Cornish coast. Taken off from the Union Star by the lifeboat, they nevertheless perished when the Solomon Browne's crew when the 47ft wooden craft was dashed to pieces against the steel bulwarks of the 1,400-ton freighter.

When the German Blitzkrieg of May 10, 1940, forced the British back he took part in the stout defence of the line of the River Escourt (as the French called the Scheldt) in which 2nd DCLI, though under heavy artillery fire, stemmed several attempted assault crossings by the Germans before being forced to give way. With the rest of the BEF, the battalion fought its way back to the coast and Pender was evacuated from Dunkirk with it.

Pender painted a picture of the Solomon Browne which was presented to Lord Goodman as a token of appreciation for the work the solicitor did in helping the trustees to administer the fund. Goodman received the picture at a special ceremony in the House of Lords. Pender himself only painted the picture on the understanding that he would not be paid a penny for it.

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exhibiting his distinctive semi-abstract landscapes with them regularly. He had his first one-man show at the Arncliffe Gallery, Bristol, in 1963, and his last at the Belgrave Gallery, London, in 1990. His work also featured at the 1985 Tate at St Ives exhibition. He and his work featured on a season working as a deckhand on his father's fishing boat, concentrated as an artist on the things he knew best:

artist he shared his regard for the village with those who admired and bought his paintings. Pender was a larger-than-life character, physical and courageous (he had been a boxing champion while serving in the Army). There was something of Frans Hals's Laughing Cavalier about him, and he was never happier than when in company in the local pub, drinking, laughing and telling stories.

His marriage ended in divorce in the 1970s, and he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

FERNANDO GERMANI

Fernando Germani, organist, died in Rome on June 10 aged 92. He was born on April 5, 1906.

ONE of the outstanding virtuoso organists of the century, Fernando Germani had the most formidable technique of his generation. For 11 years, from 1948, he was Titular Organist of St Peter's in the Vatican, where he was occasionally commanded to give solo recitals to an audience of one - the Pope. As a public performer, he played the first complete Bach cycle in Italy, was an early exponent of Reger, and helped to revive the work of Frescobaldi.

The 1930s was a fruitful decade for Germani the composer, with the production of his Concerto in C sharp minor for Organ and Orchestra, his Sonatas for Violin and Piano, a Suite for Organ and Piano, Op 12, his Tocatta for Organ, Op 12. His pioneering edition of Frescobaldi's organ works was published in 1937, and in 1939 he published the first of four volumes of his Method for Organ, which revolutionised pedal technique and became his pupils' bible.

Fernando Germani began as an infant prodigy, playing the piano and violin in public for the first time at the age of four. At eight he entered the Royal Conservatory in Rome as a pupil of Bajardi (who was a pupil of Liszt) for piano. Dobici for theory and Respighi for composition. His only organ teacher was Raffaele Manari, who also taught him the art of Gregorian Chant accompaniment.

The war years inevitably curtailed international concert activity but in 1945 Germani gave the first performance in Italy of Bach's complete organ works, at Sant' Ignazio in Rome. To coincide with these recitals, De Santis published his Illustrated Guide to the Organ Compositions of J. S. Bach. His complete Bach series was to be repeated, seven times, all over the world, and was followed by complete Franck and Reger cycles, an important advocacy of the music of Max Reger when most people thought it unplayable. A decade earlier, when Reger's friend Karl Strauber heard Germani give a Reger recital, he could not believe that Germani had played the programme from memory and without an assistant to pull the stops.

At 15 Germani was appointed organist of Rome's Augusteo Symphony Orchestra, and in 1927 he made his American debut with recitals in the Wanamaker stores in New York and Philadelphia, where audiences of 10,000 were reported. For this first visit, Leo Sowerby composed Pageant, his tour de force for pedals, which he dedicated to Germani. He delivered the score only the day before Germani left Italy, and Germani memorised it on the sea voyage for performance the day after his arrival.

During his long career Germani performed, as he said himself, "everywhere from Iceland to Tasmania". He was a guest soloist with most of the leading orchestras and conductors. In America he received honours from the mayors of New York and San Francisco, and another from President Kennedy. In recognition of his complete Bach performances, Pope Pius XII knighted him with the Cross of the Commander of St Sylvester.

Germani's British debut came in 1932 with recitals in Liverpool, Manchester and London. In both countries he was an instant success, and he toured annually thereafter.

He leaves a legacy of fine recordings. His pre-war records were made mostly in America but in the 1940s, at the height of his powers, he was signed up exclusively by HMV, for whom he recorded at Westminster Cathedral, Selby Abbey, the Royal Festival Hall, and elsewhere. He retired before the introduction of compact discs, but Amphion have recently reissued his fine recordings from Westminster Cathedral in the 1940s, and EMI have released some of his recordings from the 1960s.



Fernando Germani: the Pope's personal organist

IAN APPELEYARD

Ian Appleyard, rally driver and businessman, died on June 2 aged 74. He was born on October 10, 1923.



With his first wife and co-driver Patricia and their Jaguar at the 1955 Monte Carlo Rally

THE WAR was still a recent memory, and powdered egg and Spam were a tiresome reality when Ian Appleyard, a slight young Yorkshireman driving a succession of jaguar cars, brought a welcome whiff of glamour into the lives of many. By the early 1950s he had won five Coupes des Alpes for penalty-free runs in the Rallye des Alpes, which was generally regarded at the time as the toughest test of them all.

In 1952, in the famous Jaguar XK120 with the registration NUB 120, he won a Gold Coupe des Alpes for three successive penalty-free runs, something the organisers at the Automobile Club of Marseilles and Provence had considered impossible. Stirling Moss was the only other driver to achieve the same feat. Appleyard also competed very successfully in the Tulip Rally, which was then a major event, in the Monte Carlo Rally and in the International RAC Rally. Appleyard also raced at Silverstone - beating Moss in the 1955 Production Touring Car Race there, when both were driving Jaguar Mk VII saloons - but regarded such circuit racing as boring.

He took over and expanded his father's business, Appleyards of Leeds (a distributor of Jaguar and many other makes of cars) floated it as the Appleyard Group of Companies in 1963, and was a very active chairman of the then Motor Agents Association. Noted for his integrity in business, he was president of Leeds Rotary Club and chairman of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce. He retired in 1988 and returned to his first great passion, the countryside and birds of North Yorkshire, winning wide recognition as an ornithologist.

Ernest Ian Appleyard was born at Linton, North Yorkshire. In the early part of the war he attended Bradford Technical College and he then gained a first-class engineering degree from London University. After that he joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and by the age of 21 he was a major. His elder brother had been killed while flying in the RAF, and on demobilisation he went back to the family business, and noticed in Motor magazine that the Alpine Trial had been reinstated in 1946 under the new title of the Alpine Rally. To a lover of the Alps it had an immediate appeal, and when his father asked what he would like to do for his demob leave he said that if he could borrow a pre-war 34-litre SS Jaguar 100 from the Leeds showroom he would spend his gratuity having a go at the Alpine Rally.

only a few passes, such as the Stelvio, were closed to the public. With what we would now consider criminal panache, maximum speed trials were held on the open autostrada, with the local population enthusiastically joining in the action.

By today's standards the cars were under-braked, under-powered and unmanageable. It was forbidden to change most parts on them, there were no back-up crews, and the driver and co-driver had to carry out any necessary repairs. Appleyard's triumphs followed over the next five years, in what he described as "the golden age of rallying" - first in the only Jaguar 100 ever built, and then in the gleaming white XK120, NUB 120, which became probably the best-known Jaguar ever and is still preserved in full running order by the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust. In 1953, however, he swapped NUB 120 for a Mark VII for the European Rally, after a Norwegian official had asked him to do so "as an English gentleman" because no one could beat him in the car. Even so he came in second.

A meticulous enthusiast, Appleyard put his rallying success down to painstaking preparation. He would spend many hours before each event thinking through possible setbacks and technical problems, and practising changing wheels and adjusting brakes.

In retirement he returned to ornithology, which he had studied half a century before. At 12, when he had won an ornithological prize at his prep school, his father suggested that rather than studying birds generally he should pick one species and find out more about it than anyone else. He chose the Dipper and by the age of 17 he had become an authority on the bird, identifying every nesting site in Upper Wharfedale.

In 1973, when driving in Coverdale, he and Pip spotted a strange bird, the rare and elusive Ring Ouzel. They tracked it down to its nest and Ian swore to take up his father's challenge anew. From 1978 the couple spent two decades travelling thousands of miles through the Yorkshire Dales, closely studying the bird and uncovering changes in the plumage of maturing females and variations in the "dialect" of their calls from valley to valley.

His co-driver in almost all his rallies was his first wife, Patricia, daughter of Sir William Lyons, the founder and chairman of Jaguar, whom he married in 1950. The marriage was dissolved and in 1959 he married Philippa ("Pip") Ryder.

He is survived by his second wife, Pip, and by their two sons.

In 1994 he published Ring Ouzels of the Yorkshire Dales, illustrated by his own photographs.

He is survived by his second wife, Pip, and by their two sons.

MILESTONES



Benny Green, writer, broadcaster and jazz saxophonist, died on June 22 aged 70. He was born on December 9, 1927.

Benny Green was variously saxophonist, deviser of entertainments, writer of books and lyrics for musicals, novelist, broadcaster, Shavian, cricket fan, journalist and P. G. Wodehouse enthusiast. He was perhaps best known as a tenor saxophonist, having been with Ronnie Scott in his early days, and for his Sunday afternoon Radio 2 show, The Art of the Song-writer. He began writing a

jazz column for The Observer in 1958, and was film critic for Punch from 1972. This in turn overlapped with his stint reviewing books for The Spectator. Between 1979 and 1983 he edited four volumes of the Wisden Anthology. Obituary published on June 24.

Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, former Archbishop of Turin, died on June 21 aged 84. He was born on October 3, 1913.

In 1988 it fell to Cardinal Ballestrero, the Carmelite



turned in 1948 it was with a more telling part in his film noir The Big Clock. In 1962 she began a career in the theatre by leading on Broadway in the hit comedy Never Too Late, and she later

appeared in No Sex, Please. We're British and Mornings at Seven. In Woody Allen's film Hannah and Her Sisters (1985) she played her real-life role as the mother of Mia Farrow. Then when Allen and Farrow broke up acrimoniously, she was fierce in defence of her daughter. Obituary published on June 25.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE OWE A LOT TO OUR SOLDIERS. Who fight for us granting our freedom and our children's future. Some fall on need times. We need your help to help them. A donation now and a legacy later will help addres, our address and tax returns in need. THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND.

Established music education charity urgently needs major donor/sponsor due to exceptional difficulties. If you can assist please contact: Peter Devonport 0171 737 6103

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TRUSTEE ACTS. NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to 227 of the Trustee Act 1925.

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FLIGHTS DIRECTORY. COOPERATION on flight to India.

Equities end week on firm note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: BANKS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: FOOD MANUFACTURERS.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: RETAILERS, GENERAL.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

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IWC advertisement featuring a watch image and text: 'Why more people will try for a pilot's licence this year. Why few will get one. The pilot's watch. Ref. 5201. Mark XII. IWC watches available from £1,200.'

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'PROF', 'BFL', and 'Embroider us shirts. JIB'.



PROFILE 30 Regional airports set for take-off

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY JUNE 27 1998

BNFL deal in US brings privatisation a step closer

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT
BNFL, the state-owned nuclear reprocessor, last night persuaded the Treasury to let it clinch a \$1.2 billion (£720 million) deal to buy a leading US nuclear business. The move is seen as a step towards privatisation. The deal to buy CBS Westinghouse will make BNFL the biggest nuclear reprocessor in the world and the biggest British employer in the US. BNFL, which employs 16,000

people worldwide will take on a further 21,000 employees with Westinghouse. Although the UK organisation and a US partner are paying just \$238 million in cash, they will take on liabilities that takes the price tag of the business to \$1.2 billion. The deal was yesterday cleared by the Treasury — which is believed to have raised a number of doubts about it despite the Department of Trade and Industry having sanctioned the purchase some time ago. Industry watchers now believe that BNFL

could soon be in line for privatisation or a partial sale of its business. BNFL has been allowed to operate virtually as an independent company despite being under state control and has built up a strong overseas operation. In Britain it operates nuclear generators as well as running reprocessing. The Westinghouse acquisition was done in partnership with Morrison Knudsen, an Idaho engineering company. John Guinness, BNFL chairman, said: "This acquisition represents a major step in

the transformation of BNFL into a leading international business." BNFL's US division already had an order book of £2.5 billion. It will now, through Westinghouse, be a leading supplier of services to the US Government. BNFL beat a large number of international competitors, including Bechtel and Framatome to buy the Westinghouse business. PowerGen is understood to be arranging a jumbo loan from a group of banks to finance its £2 billion bid for East Midlands

Electricity. Banking sources have fuelled speculation that the generator could go on to make another purchase because the loan is thought to be well in excess of £2 billion. The banks ready to fund the takeover of the regional electricity company, owned by Dominion Resources, the US group, are said to include Goldman Sachs and HSBC. The bid, expected to be launched in the next few days, follows swiftly the Government's energy review which called for power station sales from the generators.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5077.4 (+18.5)
Nikkei	15210.04 (+7.82)
Dow Jones	8944.54 (+8.98)
S&P Composite	1193.16 (+3.80)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5% (5.0%)
Long Bond	107 (106.5)
Yield	5.64% (5.68%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	7% (7.5%)
Life long gilt	108.64 (108.75)
Future (Sep)	108.64 (108.75)

STERLING	
New York	1.6815 (1.6717)
London	1.6832 (1.6707)
DM	3.0098 (2.9977)
FF	10.0890 (10.0580)
SFr	2.5218 (2.5205)
Yen	237.33 (235.96)
C index	107.2 (106.8)

DOLLAR	
London	1.8100 (1.7980)
DM	6.0680 (6.0220)
SFr	1.5170 (1.5180)
Yen	141.90 (142.08)
S index	113.3 (112.6)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$13.80 (\$13.80)

GOLD	
London close	\$293.15 (\$293.55)

Umbro left us short of shirts, says JJB

By FRASER NELSON

UMBRO, the sports clothing manufacturer, has underestimated demand for its Scotland and England football tops in the current World Cup frenzy, according to JJB Sports, Britain's second-largest chain of sports goods shops.

JJB, one of the country's main retailers of replica kit, said that it has already run out of Scots tops and has sold 70,000 England shirts, with only 5,000 left.

David Whelan, chairman, said: "They are still going fast, and if England beat the Argies we will run out completely. Poor old Umbro have really suffered — they have lost thousands of sales."

Mr Whelan said that the biggest surprise had been the number of Scottish fans living in England. He said: "Scotsmen seem to inhabit the whole earth. We sold 200 Scotland shirts in Plymouth in three weeks. There's no way we could have predicted that — we would have expected selling 30 at the most."

Umbro yesterday confirmed that sales of the shirts have exceeded all expectations. It said: "There is certainly unprecedented demand. It is a nice problem to have, but we are re-structuring that would provide loans to corporate borrowers with a sound credit record, will be discussed by government officials when they meet this weekend."

If the merger of Sumitomo Trust and LTCB goes ahead, it will create the second-largest bank in Japan, with combined revenues of ¥3.64 trillion, based on last year's figures, and catapult it into the world's top ten. LTCB is strong in business lending and investment banking, while Sumitomo is a leader in asset management.

Masaharu Hino, head of the newly established FSA, said that LTCB had pledged to improve its asset quality and undertake a drastic rationalisation of its businesses as part of the merger.

Katsunobu Onogi, LTCB president, said that the bank did not have excess liabilities but it was possible that it would seek public money to increase its capital. Shares in both banks were suspended on the announcement of their merger talks.

LTCB admitted to problem loans of ¥672 billion as at March 31. However, a note published yesterday by Fitch IBCA, the international rating agency, indicated that the bank had also delved into its hidden reserves, which now stand at a loss of ¥219 billion. Politicians hope that a Sumitomo Trust rescue of the stricken LTCB will help to stem the tide of banking defaults and inject fresh confidence into the Japanese financial system.

In February, the authorities set up a ¥30 trillion "stabilisation" fund to protect depositors and recapitalise banks, but so far it has distributed little of the money. In spite of its troubles, LTCB reaffirmed its commitment to an alliance with Swiss Bank Corporation, which holds a 1 per cent stake in the bank.

Yesterday the Japanese hinted that more money may be needed to advance its joint ventures in investment banking, asset management and private banking. Japan is coming under increasing pressure from the international community to clean up its banking system. Last week the US Federal Reserve spent an estimated \$2 billion propping up the yen, but the intervention has done little more than slow the pace of the currency's decline.

Japan's hopes pinned on Sumitomo-LTCB merger

By ROBERT WHYMANT AND RICHARD MILES

HOPES of averting a financial meltdown in Japan were bolstered yesterday when the troubled Long-Term Credit Bank said that it had entered merger talks with Sumitomo Trust, the country's second-biggest trust bank.

The Bank of Japan immediately pledged its support for the proposed merger, while the Financial Supervisory Authority (FSA) said that it would inspect the quality of assets held by LTCB, whose shares this week plummeted to ¥50, their face value.

Shares in Tokyo rallied on the news, with the Nikkei index of 225 leading companies closing up 71.83 at 15,210.04. Even the yen gained slightly, ending the day at just below 143 against the dollar. Earlier, the yen had dipped as nervous Japanese investors took their savings offshore.

Sumitomo Trust said that its decision to go ahead with the merger would hinge on government plans to resolve the problem of bad loans held by banks, estimated at ¥77 trillion (£350 billion).

One idea under discussion is a US-style "bridge-bank", where the Government would identify potentially insolvent banks and take temporary control while the bad debts are dealt with, or a buyer or merger partner is found.

This and other options, including a public financial restructuring that would provide loans to corporate borrowers with a sound credit record, will be discussed by government officials when they meet this weekend.

If the merger of Sumitomo Trust and LTCB goes ahead, it will create the second-largest bank in Japan, with combined revenues of ¥3.64 trillion, based



Foreign exchange dealers taking a break during trading in Tokyo yesterday — the yen closed just short of 143 to the dollar

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Tempus, page 31

Tempus, page 31

Tempus, page 31

Warning cuts Danka value by quarter

By CHRIS AYRES

DANKA Business Systems, the troubled photocopier group, saw its stock market value plunge by nearly a quarter yesterday after issuing another profits warning, leaving the future of the company's management in doubt. Mark Vaughan-Lee, chairman, said he was prepared to

implement a "fundamental review" of the business to restore confidence, and did not rule out management changes.

Danka, whose value has fallen by £1.3 billion since last September, gave warning that revenues for its first quarter, to June 30, would be 10 per cent below City expectations. The shares dived 59.4 p. to 204p. Mr Vaughan-Lee said the

problems were related to changes made to the pay structure of Danka's US sales force, which, he said, had left staff demoralised. "We've obviously got to review the breadth of the business," he said. "It is a challenge."

Danka doubled in size last year by buying Eastman Kodak's photocopier division for £438 million. Since then, it has

suffered problems related to its integration. Under the deal, 1,000 administration staff will be made redundant. A source said: "The difficulty was to integrate two businesses of similar size with completely different cultures. When they tried to integrate, they took their eye off the ball."

Danka's performance has outraged many in the City.

Some analysts yesterday said a change of management will be needed to restore confidence. The company is also facing a writ in Florida accusing management of misleading the market over how well it was integrating Eastman Kodak. Danka has dismissed the writ as opportunistic.

Tempus, page 31

It was a week that began with Dress Down Monday. Two of Britain's richest businessmen, both with an aversion to wearing suits in the boardroom, announced an unexpected alliance. The deal between Richard Branson and Brian Souter saw Stagecoach, the bus and train operator led by Mr Souter, agree to take a 49 per cent stake in Virgin Rail in what is essentially a buyout of its venture capital investors. The planned flotation of Virgin Rail was duly shelved.

Also, the Anglo-French train and power stations group formerly known as GEC Alsthom, bought successfully in Paris, London and New York. The shares closed at their placing price of £7205 (£20.50) after worries about future Asian orders. Hong Kong confirmed the awful state of affairs in the Far East by saying it was heading for recession and unveiling a £2.5 billion package of stabilisation measures.

On Tuesday, Pearson put Tussauds Group, the waxwork tourist attraction, up for sale, with a likely asking price somewhere around £370 million. Parties thought to be interested included Time Warner, Seagram and Anheuser Busch.

Microsoft was blessed with a surprise courtroom win when an appeals court in Washington reversed a ruling that forbade it from bundling its Internet browser software with Windows 95. The original court had exceeded its authority. Later in the week, Bill Gates Jr. Co launched Windows 98, the replacement to Windows 95, in an uncharacteristically low-key fashion. It would be inaccurate to say that the software was released — it was more a case of someone at

Microsoft leaving a door ajar one night and allowing it to escape. Selfridges revealed just how bad a time it is for a retailer to float on the London stock market. Its listing particulars showed that sales were down 4 per cent in the first third of its financial year as fashion sales were below expectations and tourists spent less.

On Wednesday AT&T, the US telecoms company, made life very uncomfortable for our own BT when it unveiled a £29 billion agreed bid for TCL, the second-biggest cable television in the US. The move threatens BT's search for a US partner following the failure of its planned merger with MCI. The Sultan of Brunei's younger brother, Prince Jefri Bolkiah, took an axe to the two royal jewellers he owns, Asprey and Garrard. The struggling pair will be merged and peripheral businesses such as Mappin & Webb and Watches of Switzerland will be sold. Still, Prince

Jefri is partly to blame — he is the main customer of the Asprey group and he ain't been buying as much as he used to. Market research wasn't needed to work that one out. There was good news for Psion, the palmtop computer company. A partnership with Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola caused its shares to rise by more than 50 per cent. Meanwhile, Government plans to shake up the power market and secure a future for coal met resistance from the country's biggest electricity generator. National Power said it saw "no justification" for selling any of its power stations.

ADAM JONES

A WEEK IN THE CITY

We're now flying further East

Heathrow to Warsaw, our latest destination. New service starts 10th July.

British Midland The Airline for Europe

For more information, call 0345 554554 or contact your local travel agent. Calls are recorded.

Approval given to £80m Greenwich Reach development

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

A 600,000 sq ft development in the shadow of the Millennium Dome at Greenwich was given the green light yesterday by the Government Office for London.

The £80 million Greenwich Reach 2000 project is a joint venture by London Merchant Securities and Clearwater Estates & Properties and is expected to create about 1,500 jobs.

The project, situated on an eight-acre site next to the Cutty Sark in Greenwich, received outline planning permission from the London Borough of Greenwich last December.

"We've been waiting since December to start construction, and now that we've been shown the green light, we're determined to get going as soon as possible."

Construction is expected to begin early next year, with a completion date of early 2001.

The complex is expected to include a 12-screen multiplex cinema, London's first central cruise liner terminal, an hotel, a casino, a health and fitness centre as well as the many spill-over shops planned to complement the site. The development of 140 luxury apartments is also being considered.

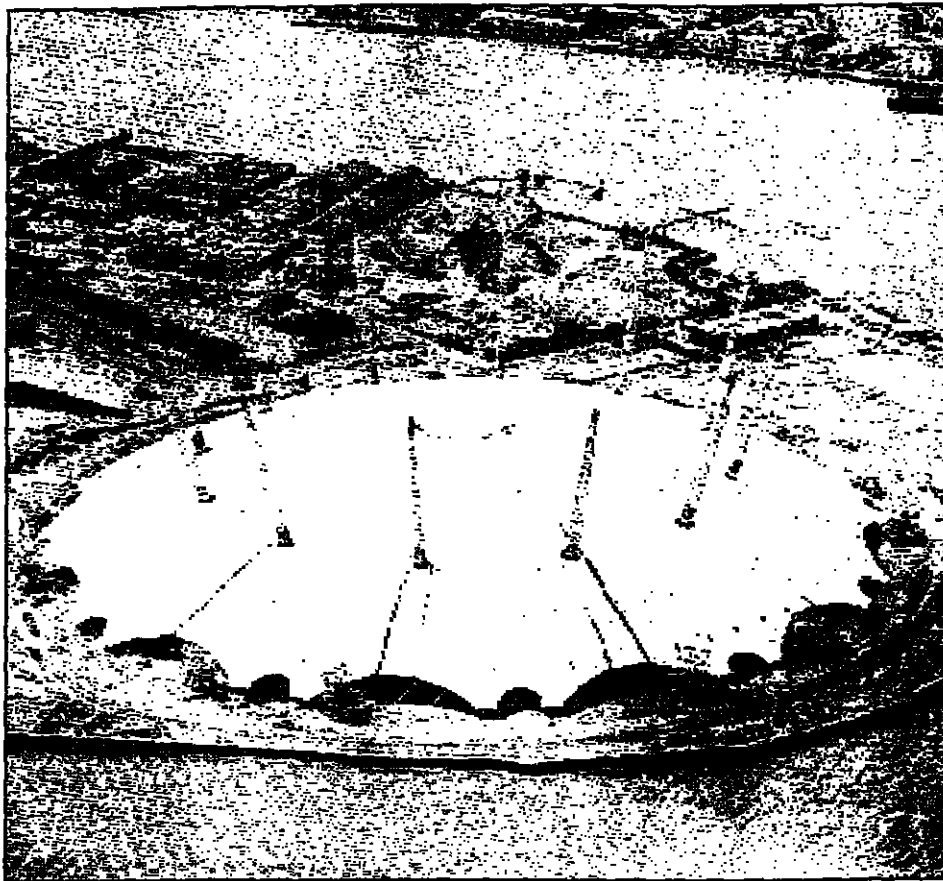
Its focus, however, with 800

metres of riverside frontage, will be on its ability to dock cruise ships weighing up to 50,000 tonnes.

Howard Morris, of Clearwater, said: "We will now be able to pursue detailed design issues and secure our target anchor lettings in order to achieve an early start on the site."

The venture, first proposed 12 years ago, was originally delayed by an environmental report criticising the effect the development would have on the natural habitat next to the Thames.

However, Mr Rayne said the objections had now been withdrawn.



Neighbour of note: the Greenwich Reach 2000 site is close to the Millennium Dome

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BHP forced to wipe 10% off asset value

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY, until last year Australia's largest company, yesterday reported its second loss in 113 years of trading and wiped A\$3 billion (£1.1 billion), about 10 per cent, off its asset value. The last loss was reported in 1923.

The steel, mining and oil group, said the decision to write down the value of its assets reflected the Asian economic difficulties. The writedowns wiped out BHP's net earnings of A\$1.3 billion before exceptional items for the year to May 31 and dragged the group into an overall loss of A\$1.47 billion, against a previous A\$410 million profit.

BHP's shares rose after the initial shock, closing at A\$13.70, up 20 cents on the day. The writedown was the biggest in corporate Australian history and will boost BHP's after-tax profits by A\$70 million in 1998-99 and about A\$130 million in 1999-2000 by way of lower depreciation charges.

BHP made the deepest asset writedown (by A\$1.62 billion) on the value of its recently acquired Magma North American copper operations. Jerry Ellis, the chairman, oversaw the purchase of Magma and is thought to be contemplating resignation.

ITC cable compromise

THE Independent Television Commission has defused a likely legal battle with cable companies by introducing an exception to its "bundling" plans. The Commission will go ahead with plans to outlaw minimum carriage requirements, which mean viewers have to pay for large basic packages of channels, from 2000. But the ITC also decided to allow the existing carriage requirements to continue for channels that are exclusive to either cable or satellite. The exceptions will run "for a period to be determined by the ITC".

Hays buys French trio

HAYS, the business services group, has bought three French recruitment companies to expand its European personnel activities. It is buying Alpha TT, Arec and Quasar for about £19.5 million, debt-free. Ronnie Frost, chairman, said that Hays intends to spend between £140 million and £160 million a year, with continental Europe remaining a prime target. Hays shares rose 2p, to £10.25. In April, the group bought Sodibelo, of Italy, Cedima, of France, and Oil Data, of the US, for a total of £14.6 million.

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BAA signs Newark deal

BAA, the airport operator, has won a 15-year contract to develop retail, food and beverage facilities in Terminals A and B of Newark airport from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. BAA Newark, the subsidiary formed to manage the project, will expand the retail space by 25,000 sq ft and increase the number of sites by more than 20 per cent. The company said it would invest \$7 million (£4.2 million) in the development and would receive a percentage of gross sales revenue plus an incentive bonus based on performance.

Parambe changes course

PARAMBE, the investment company, suspended dealings in its shares at 84p yesterday ahead of an announcement that it is to pay £6.3 million for Gioma UK, the Latin American themed restaurant group. Parambe is to return a minimum of 30p a share to shareholders via a capital distribution. Parambe is disposing of Ashlar, its art dealing subsidiary, and turning itself into a restaurant group. Gioma operates the Down Mexico Way and Gaucho Grill restaurants in London. Gioma UK is owned by Gioma, a Dutch group.

Ranger's Angola success

SHARES in Ranger Oil rose 5p to 435p after the company reported first oil from the Kijame field that it operates offshore Angola. Fred Dymott, president and chief executive officer of Ranger, said: "Kijame represents the first production from Ranger's international operations outside the UK. Offshore Angola is one of the world's most exciting exploration plays and is a key area for Ranger's future exploration and development activities. We look forward to building on the base established by Kijame."

SBS takes rival Quest

SHARES in AIM-listed SBS rose 7½p to 312½p after the group announced that it had acquired Quest Recruitment for £435,000. SBS is raising £430,000 via a placing and is paying £140,000 of the purchase price in shares. SBS said Quest was a competitor, with Eastern Electricity, the Halifax, Mercedes-Benz, Midlands Electricity and Xerox among its clients. In the year to December 31, 1997, Quest had net assets of £56,000 and an operating profit of £88,000. SBS said its performance so far in the current year was ahead of budget.

Meconic offers Phoenix

MECONIC, the speciality chemical group, is exploring offers for its Phoenix subsidiary after a volatile performance from it in the past year. Phoenix makes intermediate compounds for the pharmaceutical industry. Meconic suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £8.2 million to £6.8 million in the year to May 1 on sales up from £44.8 million to £52.7 million. Earnings fell from 15.83p to 13.25p although the total dividend is maintained at 6p after payment of a 4p final. The shares rose 2½p to 237½p.

Finlay in £10m disposal

JAMES FINLAY, the food producer, is to sell the confectionery and lift division of its subsidiary George Payne to Northern Foods for about £10 million. The net assets being sold were on the books at £9.2 million at the end of December. They generated a profit before tax of £141,000. The proceeds will be used to finance the recent acquisition of plantation companies in Sri Lanka. The disposal marks the final element of the group's strategy of focusing the business on its core international tea operations.

RJB's shares fall as City digests energy review

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST three pits are likely to close within the next year, after the Government's weakened energy review, according to City expectations. Shares in RJB Mining fell by 10 per cent, to 12½p, as stockbrokers digested the long-awaited review, which fell far short of guaranteeing a market for coal.

Charles Kermot, mining analyst with Paribas, said: "Development work has stopped at three mines. On the basis of this review, it would be madness to restart it, and, without that, they will close in about six to 12 months." The mines are Calverton and Thoresby in Nottinghamshire and the

Prince of Wales colliery in West Yorkshire.

Margaret Becken, President of the Board of Trade, unveiling the review on Thursday conceded that there could be no guarantee over pit closures. She emphasised that coal contracts were a matter for the electricity generators and mining companies. Uncertainty still hangs over RJB's future contracts. Although the company has signed up to sell some coal to National Power and Eastern — and a small amount to PowerGen — it does not have enough contracts to cover its current production. Emergency arrange-

ments, brokered by Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, expire on Tuesday.

Publicly, the coal industry and some trade unions are putting a brave face on the energy review, but privately some say that it is too little too late.

RJB also faces a clash with unions over its plans to reduce redundancy entitlements. Obligations inherited when RJB bought the bulk of British Coal's pits gave an average entitlement of £26,000, but end next week. Unions claim that new proposals will mean average payments of only £10,000. RJB says that the package would be worth £16,000.

Rogerson to join Viridian

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PHILIP ROGERSON, the former deputy chairman at BG, is to become non-executive chairman of Viridian — the company that owns Northern Ireland Electricity.

Mr Rogerson left BG abruptly after the company's defeat in a battle with Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator. He had heightened tensions between the two sides by describing her plans as "the biggest smash and grab raid in corporate history".

Mr Rogerson joins the company next week as it considers its response to the quashing of a judicial review into a dispute between Viridian and the Northern Ireland electricity and gas regulator. Viridian has the option of going to the Court of Appeal.

David Jeffries, the current chairman, said: "Both in advising the board on regulatory issues at NIE, and in taking forward the group's strategy to develop unregulated businesses, he will make a significant contribution to the group's future success."

Mr Rogerson, who is likely to earn more than £55,000 for a minimum 20 days a year, will join Viridian next week as deputy chairman and succeed Mr Jeffries when he retires next January.

Flemings in card sale with MBNA

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

FLEMINGS, the merchant bank and fund manager, has sold its Flemings/Save & Prosper credit card business to MBNA, the US credit card company.

It is the first acquisition for the US firm, which has been operating in this country for five years. MBNA has built a business with two million customers worth £2 billion. In comparison, Flemings has 100,000 clients and a loan book of only £70 million.

Neither side would reveal

the amount MBNA paid but a spokesman for Flemings said that the consideration was "at a premium to the value we put on it".

Flemings said it wanted to hive off the credit card side in order to concentrate on asset management and providing banking services to high earners. Earlier this year it pulled out of retail life and pensions.

Stephen Richardson, managing director of Save & Prosper, a subsidiary of Flemings, said yesterday: "The deal will enable our customers to enjoy access to the range of services and facilities offered by the largest independent credit card company in the world."

Both MBNA and Flemings have attracted notoriety for offering low-cost credit. MBNA has won business via direct mailings. MBNA also runs branded credit cards for Bradford & Bingley Building Society and operates 200 so-called affinity group cards, including those for Oxford University and Manchester United Football Club.

MBNA has promised to maintain the pricings on Flemings' cards. The Flemings/Save & Prosper brand will also be retained on the 100,000 cards soon to be run by MBNA.



Richardson: bank services

ICI inquiry highlights 'minefield' for analysts

By RICHARD MILES

CITY analysts yesterday described the rules governing their conversations with companies as "a minefield" following reports that ICI, the chemicals company, is being investigated by the London Stock Exchange.

Although ICI said it was unaware of any investigation into the alleged leaking of price-sensitive data and possible insider dealing, many analysts expressed unease at the Exchange's increasingly hard line on the dissemination of corporate information.

A number of analysts downgraded their profit forecasts for ICI this week after a series of telephone briefings with the company in the run-up to its "close period" before the announcement of its second-quarter trading figures on July 23.

Credit Suisse First Boston lowered its earnings forecast by 6 per cent to £50 million, while Credit Lyonnais cut its

numbers by 9 per cent. ICI shares fell by almost 5 per cent on Thursday in heavy trading. About 3.4 million shares were traded, compared with one to two million most days.

However, analysts said their downgrades had not been prompted by any specific information provided by ICI. They said the renewed strength of sterling, worsening conditions in Asia and regulatory delays to a number of disposals had served to lower their expectations for the second quarter.

"It's a minefield out there," said one analyst. "One plays this highly convoluted game where you have to read between the lines. You ask the most specific questions in the vaguest way possible. Perhaps this is a test case, using a company as large as ICI."

Stock Exchange rules say that while companies can answer general questions from analysts, they should decline

"where individually or cumulatively the answers would provide price-sensitive information". ICI insisted yesterday that it had not provided specific price-sensitive information.

The rules will become tighter still when the Financial Services Authority, the new super-regulator, implements a set of principles aimed at outlawing the dissemination of market information by individuals with a material interest in a stock. This is similar to the US Securities and Commission Exchange's approach.

However, in the US, where corporations are required to file on a quarterly basis, much of the confusion is avoided by company bulletins ahead of formal reports which indicate whether results will fall short or exceed market expectations. Even where the Stock Exchange suspects a case of insider dealing, it is notorious-ly difficult to prove.

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Austria Sch	22.13	20.47
Belgium Fr	65.09	60.19
Canada \$	2.563	2.375
Cyprus Cyp	1.950	2.051
Denmark Kr	12.04	11.15
Egypt Pound	8.87	5.26
Finland Mk	9.88	9.93
France Fr	10.54	9.75
Germany Dm	3.17	2.92
Greece Dr	333	484
Hong Kong \$	13.72	12.52
Iceland Lkr	131	111
Ireland Pt	1.25	1.18
Israel Shk	6.48	1.18
Italy Lira	3125	2886
Japan Yen	251.44	233.91
Netherlands Gld	0.958	0.927
New Zealand \$	3.674	3.279
Norway Kr	3.28	3.15
Portugal Esc	13.5	12.41
Spain Ptas	168.91	297.88
Switzerland Fr	10.10	9.14
Saudi R	265.14	247.95
Sweden Kr	14.03	12.93
Switzerland Fr	2.88	2.68
Taiwan Ntd	44.07	42.69
USA \$	1.770	1.627

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

PSOARING PSION

After months in which encrypted messages flashed around the globe between four of the world's largest electronics companies, Psion was ready to unveil a deal which it hopes will propel it into the front-rank...

Business. The Sunday Times tomorrow

Room at the top at Rothschild?



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Sir Evelyn de Rothschild will on Monday allow the outside world to take a peek at the insides of his family banking business.

It has been a good year for Rothschild Continuation Holdings, the parent of the famous banking group that bears Sir Evelyn's name. The corporate finance division, in particular, has been on fine form, enjoying the benefits of being one of the few independent alternatives to the global giants that now dominate investment banking. The privatisation expertise that it gleaned as the favoured finance house of Baroness Thatcher still brings in the business. Whether it be a telecoms company in Turkey or an oil company in Brazil, Rothschild knows how to turn government holdings into cash, which is exactly what the Turks and Brazilians have just asked it to do.

This may even be one of the few financial institutions that will be reporting good news from the Far East, where a highly selective involvement has apparently brought increased revenue and profits.

However, the rumour in the City is that Sir Evelyn, the chairman of the group, and his Swiss parent, increasingly feel the need for someone to support him in running the show. Rothschild denies the talk that the hunt is on for a chief executive, and there is nothing so vulgar going on as the appointment of

headhunters to embark on a search. Nonetheless, those who watch the business carefully believe that Sir Evelyn may be minded to repeat an experiment that he tried some years ago and bring in an outsider.

The experiment failed then: Fred Vinton, the amiable American banker, left Rothschild in 1992 and now chairs Electra Fleming. Those who know Sir Evelyn can see no reason why the experiment might be expected to work any more happily now, since his autocratic style shows little sign of change. His family does, after all, control most of the shares in the bank, a factor that he apparently finds understandably hard to forget. Yet with Sir Evelyn now aged 66, the need to provide some back-up may be growing.

The popularly expected solution had been a much greater involvement of his cousin, the Baron Davide Rothschild, from the French side of the family. However, although he is deputy chairman, he has the Paris business to occupy him and his active role in London has been limited. The suggestion is that he does not warm to the idea of working for Sir Evelyn.

There is management talent within the bank itself, particu-

larly in the corporate finance department, but they thrive because of the degree of independence they are granted by Sir Evelyn. It seems unlikely that the department would yield up a suitable candidate for chief executive. However, ambitious bankers with strong inter-personal skills (for which read thick skins) might consider sending a carefully couched CV round to New Court for Sir Evelyn's consideration.

In a flap over the Catmark

The prospect of Catmarking has made fund managers' hackles rise. Asked to pass judgment on the latest Treasury bright idea for dressing up individual savings accounts, the investment industry has hissed in near-unanimity that the scheme is fraught with dangers. There are suggestions that they

may have voiced their disapproval so loudly that it reached the ears of the Prime Minister himself and that he is poised to veto the plan. Perhaps he was influenced by the suggestion that the Government's apparent seal of approval on equity products could, when the stock market falls, see Tony Blair and his team cast in the mould of mis-sellers on a par with the pensions industry. Who would step forward to do the naming and shaming then?

Some fund managers do have ulterior motives for leaping on this potential danger for the Government. The Catmark was destined to signal that products reached certain standards on the criteria of cost, access and terms. That would obviously have little appeal to fund managers who favour onerous charges and terms that disadvantage investors — and there are a few of those. But the designers of the Catmark take the view that it can

only be applied to the simplest of products, index tracking funds, for which the charges should, by definition, be more easily kept low than for actively managed funds. Those who would like to offer their actively managed funds to Isa investors argue that depriving them of the Catmark will inevitably send savers towards the approved trackers.

There are a few players in the investment industry who take the opposing view. Naturally, these are the firms that specialise in simple products that would be deemed to be stamped with the Catmark. Step forward Virgin Direct. Virgin insists that its rivals are underestimating the intelligence of savers in contending that they will see the Catmark as a government guarantee. It also contends that trackers offer the safest investment for savers and that those who want something different would not be precluded from taking their Isa and putting a

non-Catmarked managed fund into it.

The issue needs to be resolved soon, for Isas are due to launch next spring but those who are to operate them are brief of the essential details. In the interests of getting Isa off the ground in time, the betting must be that the Catmark is left to curl up in a corner and nap for a few years.

Nasdaq targets London's empire

Not many stock exchanges would advertise abroad on prime-time television. America's Nasdaq, home of Microsoft, is as ambitious as its most famous quoted stock.

Not long ago the National Association of Securities Dealers automated quotations system was an interesting also-ran in America, just a low-cost way to trade in smaller out-of-town stocks. But the silicon revolution turned hundreds of start-ups into the stocks to own and dozens got big. Nasdaq combined the coming companies with the coming trading technology.

Early this month Nasdaq took over the Philadelphia exchange. Yesterday, it cemented a merger

with the American Stock Exchange, which it had already displaced as number two to the New York Stock Exchange, leaving Amex with no defined role.

Tomorrow the world, or at least Europe. In a sense, the London Stock Exchange would be a natural partner, if only because it now operates so differently from the NYSE. But the chemistry is wrong and Nasdaq is more interested in the new market that must develop in euroland. The German exchange in Frankfurt shares Nasdaq's ambition but the Americans will hedge their bets by linking with other euroland exchanges.

London needs to take such competition seriously, as Life is belatedly trying to do. The recently launched half-hearted attempt at advertising its charms hardly counts as a proper response to Nasdaq's television onslaught.

Hidden deficits

IT IS nearly a decade since British merchant banks gave up their hidden reserves — where they salted away a few pounds in good times to tide them over when times were bad. Japanese banks still maintain the practice. So imagine the surprise when it emerged that Long-Term Credit Bank's hidden reserves are actually a deficit of ¥219 billion. A little more candour might have lessened the impact of the Japanese banking crisis.

Sketchley to sell retail outlets to Mister Minit

By FRASER NELSON

SKETCHLEY, the SupaSnaps and dry-cleaning company, has sold all its high street shops to Mister Minit, the key-cutting and shoe repair chain, for just £123 million.

The company, which has been struggling to make money out of its retail division for years, will now devote itself to dry-cleaning company uniforms and duct laying.

John Jackson, who became chief executive three years ago with the job of restoring the fortunes of the retail division, will leave the company once the disposal is complete. It is unclear whether he will receive compensation.

Sketchley shares added 1p to 37p yesterday after it assured investors that Mister Minit has agreed to accept all liabilities from the 623 shops, and that nothing from the retail division can return to dampen future profits.

David Gawler, finance director, said: "It is quite easy to sell a business and be stuck with the liabilities, but the deal we have made is much more difficult. It has £14 million of liabilities and £10 million of assets, so we are effectively being paid for it."

Sketchley has been trying to sell its SupaSnaps and dry-cleaning businesses ever since it decided to buy ARM, a duct laying and telephone pull maintenance company in February last year.

It has been in talks with numerous bidders, which were scuppered when it found

a £10 million black hole in the accounts of the retail division. This led to the departure of Richard Meyers as finance director.

The company's retail division also takes in Jeeves of Belgrave, Lilliman & Cox and Tothills. It has about 200 properties that are rented to other retailers and employs 2,630 who will be transferred to Mister Minit.

Competition from supermarkets for dry-cleaning and mail-order companies for film developing have meant that the division ran up losses of £30 million in the past three years.

In the year to March 28, the retail division forced group pre-tax losses to £10.8 million (£4.3 million loss) and losses to 11.5p (5p loss) per share.

However, the company uniform division made an operating profit of £7.8 million in the year to March 28, and the duct laying division made £5.5 million profit on £76.8 million of sales. Group borrowing deepened to £44.7 million (£40 million), and there is no dividend (1p).

Mister Minit will decide whether Sketchley shareholders will be able to keep their right to claim 25 per cent off their dry-cleaning and photography development prices.

The disposal needs to be approved at a special shareholder meeting to be held next month.



John Jackson, chief executive, is to leave Sketchley once the disposal of its high street shops to Mister Minit is completed

Partco says mild winter to blame for slowdown

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

A MILD winter has put the brakes on first-half profits at Partco, the vehicle spares firm.

The company, which has trebled in value since joining the stock market four years ago, saw its shares tumble 40p to 196p after disclosing that interim pre-tax profits would be about £12 million, which is ahead of last year but below City expectations. Shares in rival Finelast also fell 18p to 306p.

Partco said mild weather had reduced demand for seasonal products such as radiators

and brakes. It also said there had been a general downturn in demand in the commercial parts and service market.

However, the company said it was hopeful of a stronger second half as new business, further efficiencies and a reduction in interest charges and overheads kick in. Philip Wragge, chief executive, said: "While profits for the first half will be below market expectations, we are confident of an improving trend for the second half and beyond."

Partco has financed its rap-

id growth as Britain's biggest independent motor parts supplier owning nearly 500 shops through two rights issues that raised about £100 million.

Cazenove, the house broker, is believed to have cut its 1998 profit forecast to £28.5 million, while Geoffrey Douglas, Credit Suisse Boston's small companies analyst, has pulled his estimate back to £28.5 million. Analysts had previously been predicting full-year profits of £30 million.

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Nasdaq merger approved

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE merger in the US of the Nasdaq market and the American Stock Exchange has been approved by exchange members, putting Nasdaq in a strong position to forge European alliances (see Commentary, this page).

The combined market will be the first credible threat to the New York Stock Exchange. Nasdaq is the second-biggest US exchange and Amex is number three. Nasdaq has also this month taken over the Philadelphia exchange and it plans an alliance with Deutsche Börse, the Frankfurt exchange, and other European bourses.

Deutsche Börse has positioned itself to become Europe's premier exchange after the launch of a European single currency. The Frankfurt exchange believes that it can displace London as Europe's finance capital and has perfected electronic trading methods that allow the linking of exchanges in different countries.

The London Stock Exchange this year introduced computer trading and Life, the futures exchange, may do so to win back business lost to Frankfurt.

Tempus page 31

Claremont pays £2.5m to Revenue

By FRASER NELSON

CLAREMONT Garments, which supplies clothing to Marks & Spencer, has refunded £2.5 million to the Inland Revenue after discovering it had been paying the wrong import duty on school shirts for three years.

The company said yesterday that its own investiga-

tions revealed that clothes that were being imported from The Netherlands had been made in non-EU countries — contrary to the declarations on their import form.

It has said about £1 million for duty payments for the past year, and £1.5 million for the years between 1995 and 1997.

The company said yesterday that settling its Inland Reve-

nue bill marked the last stage in an entire turnaround for its textile production plants — where problems have brought the shares down from 288p to 15p over the past two years.

Rory Shearer, finance director, said: "The problems we have had in the past have been down to production. Our delivery was not up to the required standard, and we suff-

ered. Now, we have fundamentally changed our factories along the ways that Marks & Spencer does its business."

It has installed computerised monitoring software across its 30 factories, aligned with lines such as children's wear and lingerie, so the respective M&S manager can be given a full account of how production is going.

The problems last year led to £3.64 million reorganisation costs, a loss before tax of £12 million (£4.15 million loss) and a 5.9p loss per share (4.4p earnings). There is no final dividend, leaving a total of 2p (9.87p). The shares, which bottomed at 15p two weeks ago, added 4p to 34p.

Tempus page 31

Serious types

THE Broadcasting Standards Commission has criticised Carlton TV's flagship current affairs programme *The Cook Report* for being unfair to the Serious Fraud Office. The commission says a programme in May last year about Asil Nadir, *The Man from Del Monte*, was wrong to be flippant about the SFO's refusal to give an interview.

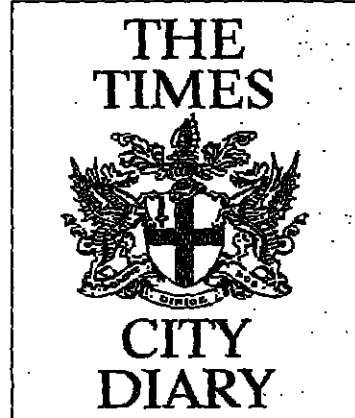
The SFO was asked by Carlton but refused, saying it could go no further than a terse written statement for fear that a written statement for fear that the media should be pilloried for being flippant; I would suggest, in all seriousness, that the SFO's main

concern is that Nadir will fly back from Cyprus and insist on an immediate trial here. Given their record, he will almost certainly walk.

□ I HEAR that one American bank in London has been circulating memos detailing what inter-office badinage is politically correct. Among the phrases deemed out of bounds is the following: "Gee, honey, you fill that sweater real good." Nor one that comes naturally to the average British merchant banker, but they have since taken to trying it out on their more round (male) colleagues.

Baggio's goal

THE vobos are circling for the great Nationwide demutualisation vote on



July 23. The campaign in favour, which is looking for windfalls all round, has taken a few pages on the Internet. No sign of the eccentric Michael Ward, but there are lots of would-be carpenters with daft names like Baggers Delight and

Frodo (as in Baggins). There is much debate about the Nationwide's policy of getting its counter staff to push the benefits of staying mutual to customers in the branches. Roberto Baggio — not, I suspect, his real name — does provide one useful piece of advice. Apparently, those in the queue who argue vociferously for conversion tend to get served rather sharply. "Worth bearing in mind if you're in a rush," he says.

□ NICE to know that music industry executives are all heart. At a bash for the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy charity yesterday one executive was overheard debating the value of EMI, the music company nearly bought by Canada's Seagram last month.

"Assuming that there are three Beatles left," he shouted above the din, "and that they're all going to die at some time — preferably sequentially — it's impossible to calculate how much that business will be

worth." For this reason he concluded that EMI would have been a far better buy for Seagram than its Dutch rival Polygram. I was particularly struck by that "preferably sequentially".

Food for thought

WHEN we last met she was toying with a Singaporean meal, but Nicola Horlick's culinary tastes know no bounds, apparently. She is about to join the board of Parambe, a property shell into which two Argentine steak houses and one Tex-Mex restaurant are to be injected.

Horlick holds no other non-executive directorships, and it seems odd to break her duck with such a tiny business. But there is a personal reason for her interest. The owner of the restaurants, and a much larger chain in Europe, is Zeev Grodik. His daughter Gigi is best friends with Horlick's daughter Georgie.

MARTIN WALLER

NHP directors to share £6m

By DOMINIC WALSH

FOUR directors of Nursing Home Properties, the AIM-listed specialist property company, will share a windfall of at least £6 million as a result of the group's promotion to a full stock market listing.

Under an incentive scheme set up at the time of NHP's flotation three years ago, Richard Ellert, chief executive, and the three other executive directors will become entitled to 5.2 per cent of the equity, up to a maximum of 5 million shares.

The 5.2 per cent level is triggered provided the group's net asset value (NAV) on September 30 reaches 145p and it has achieved a full listing. At its recent interim results, NAV was 142.55p but analysts believe it should easily hit 145p by the end of September. If it fails to do so, there is a sliding scale, which at the current NAV, would entitle them to 4 per cent. A full stock market listing is expected next month.

If the number of shares in issue remains unchanged, the four men would share out just over 3.7 million shares. At yesterday's 163p close the shares would be worth just over £6 million at a total cost to the four of just £50,000. Half would go to Mr Ellert.

There is still a possibility that the directors could boost the value of the incentive scheme by launching a share issue to fund expansion. At the interim, Mr Ellert raised the prospect of an equity issue "some time this summer". If they were to boost the number of shares sufficiently to secure the maximum five million shares allowed under the scheme, they could potentially reap £8.15 million, or more if the share price rises further.

NHP has built a portfolio of 170 homes with more than 9,200 beds at a total cost of £317 million and has a further £100 million worth of deals in the pipeline.

Good news for NatWest savers

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 1 July 1998:

Savings			
	Gross Rate per annum (%)	Gross CAR (%)	Net Rate per annum (%)
TESSA Reserve Top Free Savings - No Minimum Balance	7.50	7.71	N/A
Crown Reserve 3 Month Notice - Interest paid quarterly			
£250,000 +	7.10	7.29	5.68
£100,000 - £249,999	6.95	7.13	5.56
£50,000 - £99,999	6.65	6.82	5.32
Below £50,000, gross rates are the same as Diamond Reserve			
Diamond Reserve 1 Month Notice - Interest paid monthly			
£100,000 +	6.80	7.02	5.44
£50,000 - £99,999	6.50	6.70	5.20
£25,000 - £49,999	5.75	5.90	4.60
£10,000 - £24,999	5.25	5.38	4.20
£2,000 - £9,999	4.70	4.80	3.76
Reward Reserve Instant Access - basic interest paid quarterly			
£10,000 +	6.70	6.79	5.36
£2,000 - £9,999	6.45	6.53	5.16
Premium Reserve Instant Access - interest paid quarterly			
£50,000 +	5.30	5.41	4.24
£25,000 - £49,999	5.20	5.30	4.16
£10,000 - £24,999	4.85	4.94	3.88
£2,000 - £9,999	4.60	4.68	3.68
First Reserve Instant Access - interest paid quarterly			
£1,000 +	4.10	4.16	3.28
£500 - £999	3.85	3.91	3.08
£250 - £499	2.75	2.78	2.20
£100 - £249	2.60	2.63	2.08
£1 - £99	2.50	2.52	2.00

The rates for all other personal savings accounts remain unchanged. Where appropriate, lower rate tax (currently 20%) will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Otherwise, for example, subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross. The Gross Rate is the rate paid before deducting income tax. The Gross Compounded Annual Rate (CAR) is the rate where gross interest payments are reinvested in the account during the year. The Net Rate is the rate paid after the deduction of lower rate income tax, currently at 20%. The gross rate and the gross CAR for the Reward Reserve accounts include quarterly interest payments of 1.50% gross per annum and an annual interest reward of 0.50% gross per annum. Quarterly rewards are payable provided the account balance does not fall below £2,000 and no more than one withdrawal is made in any quarter. Annual rewards are payable provided the account remains in credit and no more than three withdrawals are made in any year. Should you close your account during a quarterly or annual period you will not receive any quarterly or annual reward for that period. For details of other interest rates please ask your local branch. All rates are subject to variation.



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Regional airports set for take-off at your convenience

Matthew Barbour reports on a metamorphosis as the Cinderellas of the sector are transformed into suitable company for their big international rivals

As the holiday season comes upon us and we blow the dust off our suitcases in anticipation of that yearly treat of two weeks in the Algarve, new figures indicate that more of us are taking a moment to think about what we are doing, and more importantly, how we are doing it.

With Gatwick and Heathrow at full capacity and Terminal 5 proving ever illusive, the local alternative has become more attractive. Regional airports in the past have been seen as little more than wind-blown colonies of prefabricated huts languishing in the shadow of London's giants, but if recent trends are anything to go by, "toy-town" airports are not to be sneered at.

This week TBI, the property and regional airports group that operates Cardiff and Belfast airports, reported full-year profits up 24 per cent on last year, with the number of passengers passing through increasing by 11 per cent. "Travellers are finally realising that there is a better, quicker, more comfortable option to Gatwick and Heathrow," said Keith Brooks, TBI's chief executive. "Our traffic volumes are growing by over twice the amount seen at the two giants, the main difference being that we have the capacity to expand, and they do not."

Low-cost, no-frill carriers such as Debonair, Easyjet and Ryanair have introduced many passengers to these airports and as these airlines continue to expand the airports will continue to thrive with them. Taking holidays abroad is as common today as car ownership became in the years after the Second World War. The market is growing fast and regional airports, unlike their London cousins, are entirely unregulated.

An important part of the transition is changing the

name. Ludgate, for instance, has been "Born Again" (as its advertising campaign cries) as Bristol International. Ringway is Manchester. Rhoose and Turnhouse have metamorphosed into Cardiff and Edinburgh and, most bizarrely, Manston (the former RAF base which boasts the longest runway in Britain) is now Kent International. Although the tide appears to be turning, airports like Bristol know they still have to fight with Heathrow and Gatwick for customers, with more than 70,000 people from the South West still choosing to fly to Holland via Heathrow last year despite Bristol offering an equally efficient, cheap service.

Bristol International, which

It has turned into a cash cow for the local economy, employing thousands, with revenue beyond anyone's expectations

is 49 per cent owned by the local council, has seen the number of passengers passing through its doors increase by 18 per cent over the past year, and John Parkin, managing director, is predicting growth for the coming year of more than 20 per cent.

"We're the fastest growing major regional in the UK, although there are a number of other factors involved," he said. "More than anything, with the growing economy in the South West and the expectations that come with that, our passengers are placing more value on arriving directly back in their own front yard. It's exciting to spend two and a half hours going to an airport, but not coming back."

Airports such as Bristol and

Cardiff boast facilities such as cheap or free parking, a car-seat-to-airseat time of just 20 minutes through shorter check-in times and smaller sites, good public transport links and, above all, the absence of the M25.

"We're not increasing the frequency of the flights, more the size of the planes," Mr Parkin said. "As the efficiency and power of engines improves, runways that were once simply not viable for larger planes are now ideal — the pace of technology has enabled us to realise the potential of formerly useless assets."

Environmental concerns, once the bane of airport developers, are now less of a problem. More powerful, efficient, quieter engines raise fewer protests from local residents complaining of noise pollution, and airports rarely have to be extended into greenfield sites as the aircraft no longer need such long runways.

Many local councils are now wise to the fact that big businesses with international links are more likely to locate near to efficient local airports and the money now generated in the local economy is two or three times that raised by airports such as Bristol even 18 months ago.

In recent months both Bristol International and Luton have come on the market and been snapped up by First-Group and an American-backed financial buyer for over-the-odds prices.

Another growing trend is to snap up former Ministry of Defence landing strips complete with radar and satellite equipment for a fraction of the price of building a new airport. The incentive for developers is that since all that has to be built is outbuildings, the airports are operational in a matter of months rather than years.



Smaller airports such as Luton offer quicker check-ins and a range of other advantages that make them more attractive than bigger rivals

Earlier this year Wiggins, the property developer, took its first step in turning the Battle of Britain airfield at Manston, Kent, into another London airport. The 20-year deal with charter airline Air Atlanta Icelandic to operate charter, freight and some scheduled flights from "Kent International" is set to make £5 million for the company.

Oliver Inly, chief executive of Wiggins, explained the snowball effect that most of the airport development companies are feeling. "We want to create a network of European airports. We have already held serious talks with a number of people and hope to sign up a significant number of airports in the next few months," he said.

Wiggins is already in talks with several leading tour operators, including Thomson, about establishing cheap flights to the Continent and hopes to attract freight operators to the airports. "The new breed of cheap airline groups have hardly scratched the surface of the potential market," said Mr Inly.



Bigger airports such as Gatwick are more often associated with queues and delays

TBI last week bought control of Skaviska airport outside Stockholm, Sweden, for about £17 million and recently acquired Orlando Sanford International airport in the US. Like a string of formerly state-owned foreign operations, the city of Nyköping was forced to take bids for its 90 per cent

stake in the loss-making airport from predominantly British companies.

One competitor is Stagecoach, the Perth group that lost the bid for Skaviska to TBI. Stagecoach has made public its ambitions to build a global aviation business after its recent £41 million acquisition of

Prestwick airport. Stagecoach has also bid for Wellington airport in New Zealand and is trying to buy RAF Northolt, which is just ten miles by road from Heathrow.

At present there are only about ten major regional airports in the UK still under local authority control, includ-

ing Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds-Bradford, Norwich, Teesside and Blackpool.

Newcastle International airport is one such council-run airport which, like the ever-growing number of privatised airports, has found its business extremely lucrative.

Rita Stringfellow, leader of the airport committee in Newcastle, said: "Despite the 1986 Airport Act brought in under the Conservatives, banning local councils from borrowing money to expand airports, we have managed to accumulate £27 million in cash to extend our main terminal."

"It has turned into a huge cash cow for the local economy, employing thousands of workers and generating revenue beyond anyone's expectations."

As companies such as TBI, Wiggins and Stagecoach battle for supremacy in the fight for the regionals, and year-on-year growth at the companies continues at the current rate, the "toy-town" airports of yesterday have proved that they are worth more than a passing glance.

Lord Marsh... a latter day Sir James Goldsmith?

Few can forget the image of the late Sir James Goldsmith chiding David Mellor as both suffered demoralising defeats at last year's general election. Sir James's fight to preserve the pound has now been taken up by Lord Marsh.

Superficially, the two men couldn't be less alike. Richard Marsh had a distinguished career in Labour Cabinets in the 1960s before going on to head British Rail, a nationalised industry. James Goldsmith was a tycoon from his teens, the free-market darling of the Thatcherite Right.

But their lives have struck many parallels. Dick Marsh left politics to go into business. James Goldsmith started in business but embraced politics at the end of his life. Both men married three times. They share the same star sign (Pisces). Both were knighted in Harold Wilson's Resignation Honours List in 1976. Sir Richard was created a life peer in 1981.

Neither man had much truck with the tribalism of party politics. Lord Marsh campaigned with Conservatives against a left-wing Labour candidate in his old Greenwich seat in the 1987 by-election. Sir James chose not to lend his influence and money to Conservative Eurosceptics before the last election, preferring to form his own Referendum Party to fight the euro.

Now Lord Marsh has been appointed head of a new group of business opponents of the euro. Business for Sterling, taking up the standard that was left fluttering idly by the implosion of the Conservative Party after the general election and by Sir James's death soon after.

Lord Marsh shares Sir James's eloquence on the potential horrors of the euro, but not his millions. Business for Sterling has so far spent the princely sum of £2,400 on the campaign to save the pound — paying for the podium and lighting equipment at this month's press launch.

The idea for Business for Sterling was hatched at a lunch party Lord Marsh attended with Lord Hanson.



Sterling efforts: Lord Marsh says the euro is bad for business

They sounded out other business folk and found that, in contrast to the Confederation of British Industry's insistence that business is overwhelmingly in favour of the single currency, there is a significant minority that is deeply concerned with the Government's

apparent keenness to join.

Lord Marsh decided, as a first step, to see whether he could find 100 signatures from business to sign an anti-euro letter to *The Times*. Questionnaires were sent out on June 4 and, by June 9, the 100 mark had already been passed.

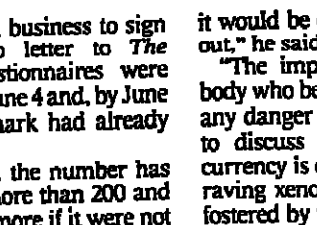
Since then the number has swelled to more than 200 and it would be more if it were not

for a "conspiracy of silence". Some companies do not want to compromise business links with Europe, others are scared of annoying a Government widely perceived to be itching to join the single currency.

"Every document that comes out, every ministerial statement, every answer to a question is geared to the assumption that we are going in, that it is fall safe and that it would be dangerous to stay out," he said.

"The impression that anybody who believes that there is any danger at all or anything to discuss about the single currency is either an idiot or a raving xenophobe is carefully fostered by the Government."

IN THE HOT SEAT



CV: LORD MARSH

Born: March 14, 1928. Educated: Ruskin College, Oxford. Career: MP (Lab) Greenwich 1959-71. Chairman British Railways Board 1971-78; Newspaper Publishers' Assoc 1978-90. Chairman Laurentian Holding Co since 1989.

Why does he think that new Labour is so keen on the single currency? Lord Marsh professes himself mystified but, relaxing in the House of Lords, offers a theory.

"There is an obsession with what they believe is young and zippy and fashionable and idealistic. But if you have worked for a whole host of companies, as I have done, you know that shareholders are not really keen on zippiness or youth. They are interested in the bottom line."

"The one thing you do when you are entering a new market is a detailed risk analysis and, as far as I am aware, the Treasury has never done a risk analysis or cost benefit analysis. I find that amazing."

Lord Marsh and his fellow thinkers love the single market but think that the single currency will be bad for business. He acknowledges the "possibility" that the euro may be a success but still argues that Britain should not join because its economy is so different and would be damaged by a one size-fits-all economic policy. It is more than a possibility — a probability in his view — that the euro project will fail.

So where does Business for Sterling go from here? The first challenge is to find an office, a secretary, a campaign manager and a fundraiser. The second is to fend off Conservative MPs (and some Labour ones) disillusioned with their own parades and bombarding Lord Marsh with expressions of support.

Lord Marsh, who has committed himself to the campaign for three years, wants to keep the group strictly business and leave the politicians to battle it out among themselves. Above all, Lord Marsh wants to fight the notion that the single currency is becoming an inevitability for Britain.

"It is childish to believe that just because you wish something and believe something is going to happen, that it will happen. I eventually had to come to the conclusion that there were no fairies at the bottom of my garden."

JANET BUSH

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Handwritten text at the bottom of the page.

NEWS

France expels English hooligans

More than 450 English football hooligans were arrested or expelled from France ahead of the critical game against Colombia after police mounted the biggest security operation of the World Cup tournament.

Trimble set to lead divided Ulster

With more than a quarter of the 108 seats decided, David Trimble's UUP was set to emerge as the biggest party in Northern Ireland's new assembly.

English invasion

Thousands of English fans poured into France in the biggest influx of English people in northern France since D-Day.

Vodka suppliers

Two sixth-formers using fake identification bought the vodka drunk by the 14-year-old Millfield schoolgirl who fell to her death from a dormitory roof.

MPs back Robinson

Labour MPs rallied to defend Geoffrey Robinson after the latest allegation against him proved to be untrue.

Viagra busters

A V-men squad has been set up to investigate black market trading in Viagra, the US anti-impotence drug.

India's missile fleet

India is planning to build its first nuclear-powered submarine and to fit it with nuclear warheads, according to Jane's.

Hague's mum keeps bedside vigil

William Hague's elderly mother, Stella, stepped in to nurse him when his wife Ffion had to leave his bedside. The Tory leader is now recovering from an operation for a painful and debilitating attack of sinusitis.

Soft on TV

Labour ministers are deserting serious news shows for "sofa soft" interviews.

Lesson for the Dome

There are three things that stand out at the Lisbon Expo, that Peter Mandelson, the "Dome Minister", should see. They include real art and superb films.

Tearaways riot

It took more than 30 police to suppress nine tearaways rioting at a Kent detention centre.

Women oppose edict

For 900 years no woman has been allowed to set foot on Mt Athos, but now European feminists are fighting to topple the ban imposed by Constantine IX.

Rebuke for China

President Clinton is to tell his Chinese guests that their treatment of political dissidents is "thoroughly unacceptable".



Dobbin and Patch, two of the last pit ponies in Britain, leave Nant Fach Colliery, South Wales, for the last time, to be replaced by machinery

NEWS FEATURES

Glastonbury: For younger music-lovers the growing presence of fans in their thirties and fortysomethings is threatening their spirit of youthful hedonism.

Gem of a show: A 14-year work of love opens today in the Italian capital, featuring a dazzling collection of art, coins and jewellery from the Roman Empire.

OPINION

Picking winners: Some ministers seem to regard the market much as Red Indians regarded the rifle.

Education reforms: Druids at Stonehenge.

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Killing wild birds is traditional in France, like making cheese.

Jack Pender, painter and teacher; Fernando Gernami, organist; Ian Appleyard, rally driver.

BUSINESS

BNFL purchase: The state-owned UK company is to become the world's biggest nuclear reprocessor after its \$1.2bn purchase.

Where to find the cheapest life cover.

SPORT

World Cup: Argentina led group H with a 1-0 victory over Croatia.

Cricket: England may make three changes for the third Test.

SECTION the times magazine

- Cover story: TV's bolshiest heroine... Page 16
Football crazy: Passport out of poverty... Page 26
Interiors: The Midas touch... Page 44
Style: Country... Page 70
Life: Diary of a single woman, 50+... Page 78

THEATRE

- The big interview: Finley Quaye... Page 6
Music: The world of Company Flow, the coolest hip hop trio... Page 10
Opera: The voice of Emma Shapplin... Page 14
Books: Pages 16-23
Listings: Pages 26-43

WEEKEND

- Fitting tribute: The museum at Althorp... Page 1
Wine list: 20 bottles for under £7.50... Page 7
Summer sales: Guide to the best buys... Page 8
Gardening: Gloria Hunniford's fun plot... Page 9
Travel: The best restaurants in France... Page 25

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels. Board to be wild plus competitions.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,829

A £30 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday.

Name/Address

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-29.

- ACROSS: 1 A container that's not property... 29 I must quit academic post to become a cleaner.
DOWN: 1 Handbook shows a piece coated with resin. 2 Savings account written up as something worth having.

Solution to Puzzle No 20823 and 20828. Includes words like BLINDALLEY, BETH, OVERLAP, ONPAPER.

THE WEATHER

Table with weather conditions for various regions: Latest Road and Weather conditions, UK Weather - All regions, UK Roads - All regions.

Weather by Fax: Dial 0334 followed by area number from your fax.

World City Weather: 153 cities worldwide.

Motoring: Europe Country by Country, European fuel costs, Support information.

Car reports by fax: AA and used car reports from the AA.

HOURS OF DARKNESS: Sun sets, Moon sets, Moon rises.

TOMORROW: Sun sets, Moon sets, Moon rises.

First quarter July 01: London 9:22 pm to 4:46 am, Bristol 9:31 pm to 4:56 am.

High Tides: TODAY, TOMORROW.

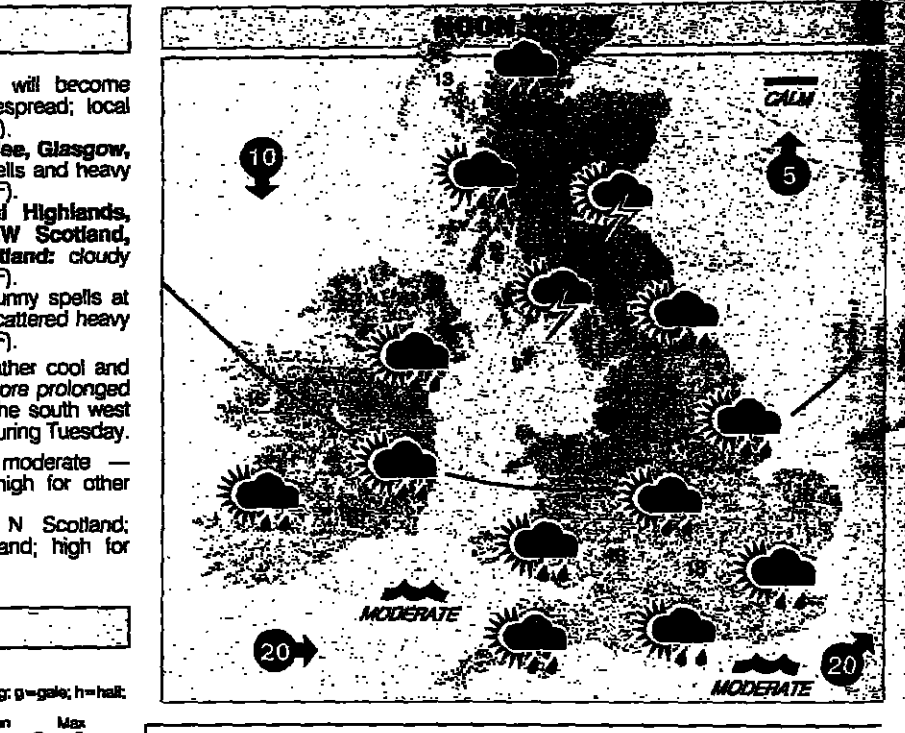
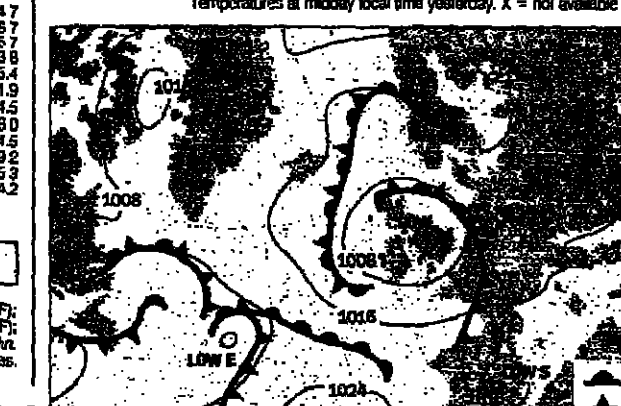
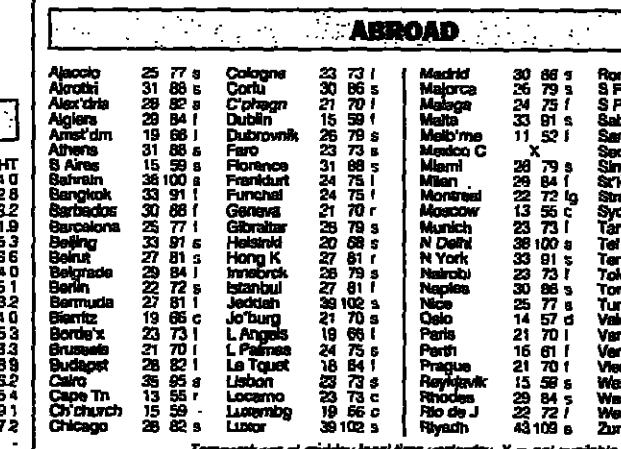
HIGHEST & LOWEST: Yesterday's highest and lowest temperatures.

FORECAST

General: East Anglia and south-east England will start dull before brightening with a mix of sunny spells and heavy showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY: Table with weather data for various cities.

ABROAD: Table with weather data for various international locations.



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Beck's advertisement with a large image of a man's face and the brand name.

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UNDER THE SKIN OF THE WORLD CUP

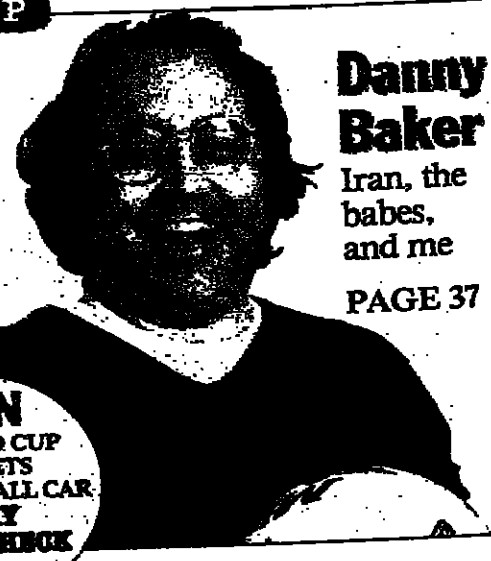


Perfect position
Argentina march into last sixteen
PAGE 36



Lynne Truss
Life after sudden death
PAGE 36

WIN
WORLD CUP TICKETS
A VAUXHALL CAR
PLAY TRAM CHECK
PAGE 53



Danny Baker
Iran, the babes, and me
PAGE 37

WEEKEND MONEY

COST OF THE TEN-YEAR ITCH
PAGE 57

WHY LIAM LOVES HIS BRISTOL
PAGE 51

THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT

17 PAGES

JUNE 27 1998

ANDERTON STRIKE OPENS DOOR TO SECOND ROUND



Anderton, third left, is congratulated by his team-mates after putting England ahead in the twentieth minute of the group G match against Colombia in Lens last night. Photograph: Peter Müller

Beckham ignites England

DAVID BECKHAM last night answered the prayers of all those who had lamented his omission from England's opening World Cup games when he produced a stunning performance and his first international goal here in the Stade Felix Bollaert to carry his team into the second round of the tournament.

Goals from Darren Anderton and Beckham, two men who had until last night been joined only in rivalry for one place in the side, banished the spectre of England being eliminated from the first phase of the World Cup for the first time since 1938. They will now meet the might of Argentina next Tuesday for a place in the quarter-finals.

	0	2	
COLOMBIA		ENGLAND	
	(Lens, 40,750)	Anderton (20)	
		Beckham (30)	

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

most dangerous attacking down that right flank and Anderton started where he had left off against Romania. He is improving with every game, getting fitter and more assured and last night, right from the start, he supplied a steady stream of crosses.

Le Saux almost profited

Moreno leapt with Scholes at the near post, but managed to head the ball only towards the edge of the area. Anderton was waiting there and, taking the ball knee-high, he fired his shot past the startled goalkeeper and into the roof of the net. It was a sweet riposte to those who had lamented his inclusion because of his supposed lack of goalscoring threat.

England went close again in the 25th minute, when another cross from Anderton was only half-cleared and fell to Owen at the back post. He controlled the ball on his chest and volleyed it towards goal, but it rose just too high and cleared the Colombia crossbar.

Five minutes after that, though, England extended their lead. Ince surged forward from midfield and was brought down 30 yards from goal. Beckham stood over the free kick with Le Saux and, when the Chelsea defender ran over it, Beckham curled an unstoppable right-foot shot over the wall, the ball arcing just inside Mondragon's right-hand post.



Serna takes evasive action and Bermudez can only watch as Anderton fires England ahead

It was his first goal for England in 15 appearances and he celebrated with the gusto it deserved, running towards the England fans high in the stands behind the goal and savouring their cheers of rapture.

England began the second half in similar fashion, Owen running at a retreating defence and laying a pass square to Scholes, who shot first time from 30 yards and forced a fine fingertip save from Mondragon.

A minute later, Shearer's

- Romania held 35
- Argentina progress 36
- Jamaica bid farewell 36
- David Elleray 39

GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	3	2	1	0	4	2	6
England	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Colombia	3	0	1	2	3	3	3
Tunisia	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

RESULTS: England 2 Tunisia 0, Romania 1 Colombia 0, Tunisia 0, Colombia 1, Romania 2, England 1, England 2, Colombia 0, Romania 1, Tunisia 1

There was a new vibrancy about this England team last night, galvanised as they were by the presence of Beckham and Michael Owen in the starting line-up. Both men cut a swathe through the ranks of the South Americans and Owen was desperately unlucky not to gild his performance with a goal.

It was enough, though, that Beckham should engrave this match with a curling 30-yard free kick that will send England out to face Gabriel

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THE WORLD CUP TODAY page 38
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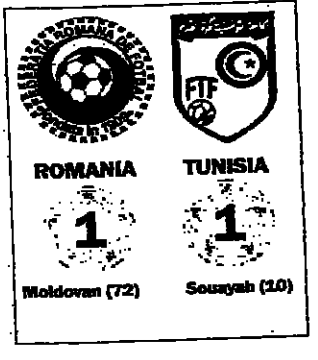


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WORLD CUP 98

Moldovan restores colour to Romania



Fifa set to sound out Issa over wire

By JOHN GOODBODY

FIFA is to investigate whether Pierre Issa, the South Africa defender, was wearing a listening device during his team's final World Cup group game against Saudi Arabia. A picture above, of Issa, taken during the match on Wednesday, shows a device clipped over his right ear, with a wire running from it and going under the player's shirt.

Although a spokesman for the world governing body said that the rules did not prohibit players from being in direct contact with officials on the bench, or anyone else, he still regarded the communication of instructions in this manner as "unsportsmanlike". Fifa has spoken already to Sanchez Yantén, the Chilean referee, who said he did not notice the device.

South Africa were playing at the same time as France took on Denmark in the final group C matches and had a slight chance of qualifying for the last 16. The South Africans needed the host nation to beat the Danes (which they did 2-1) and themselves to defeat Saudi Arabia heavily. They could manage only a 2-2 draw.

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE

HUBRIS but not nemesis. It did seem, at least in the first half, that Romania might pay for their impertinence in treating this game and Tunisia so lightly. Had they lost while England won, it was they who would have had to take on effervescent Argentina, rather than the less adventurous Croatia. But, though Tunisia exploited their advantage with some bright, quick football in the first half, scoring an early goal, the pendulum swung when, belatedly, the Romanians brought on both their chief strikers. The equaliser came, and with it first place in group G.

You might say that Romania, having decided that they had won the group, did not take this game seriously. In the first place, they put in almost half a team of reserves. In the second, they almost provocatively used only a single striker and that was Marius Lacatus, 34, who has seen better, faster days as an outside right. He has 62 caps, a long experience of World Cups but hardly deserved to be stuck up front for the most part in the first half on his own.

Comically, the ten Romania outfield players decided to take the field with their hair dyed a bright, metallic gold. This was reportedly the result of a wager with the Romania manager, Anghel Iordanescu, who had promised to shave his head if Romania came top of the group, provided that the players would dye their hair blond.

In the event, Romania brought on their dominating sweeper, Gheorghe Popescu, 30, after just 32 minutes of the first half. Christian Dulca, the defender who came off, had

given away a clumsy penalty, allowing Tunisia to go ahead after ten minutes.

Quite why he should have chosen to haul down the elusive Adele Sellimi in the penalty area was obscure, but Skander Souayah gratefully struck home the penalty kick.

Tunisia, plainly treating the game more urgently than their opponents, even though advancement in the competition was beyond them, could easily have scored in only the

second minute. Their other striker, Mehdi Ben Slimane, who, like Baya, plays in Germany with Freiburg and could always trouble Romania with his pace, ripped through the centre of their defence, only for his shot to be turned behind by Stelea.

Although Gheorghe Hagi had his glittering moment, it was Tunisia who made almost all the salient first-half chances. They should certainly have scored again, when

Sellimi broke through on the right. Kaies Ghodbane waited for the ball to be placed at his feet in front of an open goal, but the cross was careless and Stelea grabbed it.

A couple of minutes later, Ghodbane did get in a useful shot but Stelea grasped that, too.

At half-time, no doubt realising that if they lost this game and England won it would be England who topped the group — had the Roma-

nians dyed their hair in vain? — their arrogance ceased. Their prize striker, Adrian Ilie, who is a great deal faster than Lacatus, replaced him in attack. Yet when the ever-devoted Hagi made Ilie a good chance, nine minutes into the second half, he wastefully shot wide.

When Romania brought on their other striker, Viorel Moldovan, of Coventry City, after 66 minutes, you knew that they were fully committed

at last. And, indeed, it was Moldovan who gave his team the equaliser only five minutes after he had come on. The Tunisia goalkeeper, El-Ouaer, rushed out to try to counter Ilie. But the striker hooked the ball over his head. Chouchane's header went straight to Moldovan and the ball was dispatched straight into the net. So Romania were first in the group and their bizarre hairstyles had some kind of justification.

ROMANIA (3-2-2): B. Stelea (Salernitano) — A. Dulca (AEK, Athens), C. Dulca (Rapid Bucharest), sub: G. Popescu (Gakustany, Sibiu), I. Gheorghiu (Dinamo Bucharest) — D. Patrascu (Chelous), C. Galca (Espérance), L. Marinescu (Rapid Bucharest), D. Iordanescu (Colpines), G. Hagi (Gakustany) — I. Dumitrescu (Alanta, sub: V. Moldovan, 67), M. Lacatus (Steaua Bucharest), sub: A. Ilie, Valeriu. 49

TUNISIA (4-2-2-2): C. el-Ouaer (Espérance) — R. Bouaziz (Etoile du Sahel), F. Chouchane (Etoile du Sahel), S. Trabelsi (CS Steaua), M. Boukadida (Etoile du Sahel) — S. Chel (Espérance), K. Ghodbane (Etoile du Sahel) — S. Souayah (CS Steaua), Z. Baya (SC Freiburg) — M. Ben Slimane (SC Freiburg), sub: R. Amel (Etoile du Sahel), 54), A. Sellimi (Jeon). Referee: E. Lennie (Australia)

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WORLD CUP 98

Argentina making perfect progress

THE heat of Argentine drums grows louder and louder, its incessant rhythm booming across France. As it pounded from Bordeaux yesterday, the South American supporters had swollen almost overnight into a massed army of blue and white. They sense that something is stirring for them in France and, as they skipped past their closest rivals in group H, no one was about to argue.

This was not Argentina at their best — that can wait for greater tests — but, even with the furnace turned down to mid-temperature, it was too much for Croatia to handle and one wonders who can stop Daniel Passarella's powerful, rather than exhilarating, machine.

They returned to their base near St-Etienne last night to lie in wait for their second-round opponents from England's group on Tuesday, but they will fear no one. If it is the sign of a potential World Cup winner that they can saunter through their group playing well within themselves, then Argentina most assuredly fit the bill. And for all the buzz about Gabriel Batistuta, like most world champions of recent years, this is a team whose principal asset is its solidity. Brazil, for one, cannot say the same.

The defence, neglected amid all the hyping of the glamorous attack, remains the only rearguard in the tournament yet to concede a goal. Given its toughest test yesterday by the strongest rivals in a weak group, it yielded little, despite the absence of the injured Roberto Sensi. The high number of players from Serie A that make up their defence does not bode well for those who will attempt to breach it.

Ahead of that back line, Argentina did all they had to, but no more, to secure victory. Juan Veron, the deceptively languid midfielder who has the same running power as Carlton Palmer and the same accuracy over 60 yards as Arnold, sat deeper than normal, preferring to prompt rather than lead.



FROM MATT DICKINSON

Batistuta was happy to wait for his goalscoring chance rather than seek it, while Ariel Ortega, who produced little spasms of skill and set up the only goal for Hector Pineda, was withdrawn shortly after half-time, having picked up a booking. Like his team, he was pacing himself. If there was new joy to be found in this

Argentina side, it was in the diminutive shape of Marcelo Gallardo. Given his first start of the tournament, the attacking River Plate midfielder buzzed around a packed Croatia defence, skipping past tackles, when he was not being tripped.

To find room for him in the starting line-up, Ortega had been pushed forward, alongside Batistuta, in place of Claudio Lopez. It is a lightweight attack measured purely in physical presence, but there are few defences who will fancy trying to shackle Batistuta as Ortega and Gallardo weave their tricks around him.

Certainly, Slaven Bilic did not enjoy the experience. Booked after 18 minutes, when brute force was the only means left to stop Batistuta running past him, the Everton defender had to cope for the remainder of the game knowing that his familiar lunges would result in certain banishment. Somehow he survived, but Zvonimir Soldo, cautioned for a crude bodycheck on Ortega, will be suspended for the next game.

It was Bilic who was most culpable as Argentina went ahead after 36 minutes. Caught in possession in midfield, he was out of position as Ortega latched on to a stray ball and immediately spotted Pineda bursting down the left into the hole Bilic had so misguidedly left. Ortega's pass, with the help of a slight deflection, landed on Pineda's chest and then on his left foot for an emphatic volley.

While Vavro struck the crossbar in the 63rd minute, Croatia seemed resigned to their fate and



Bilic, the Croatia defender, seems oblivious to the aerial challenge of Batistuta yesterday

the second half was played out at a stroll, except for the occasional tantrum by Suker. It was enough, though, to bring out the exuberance of the 20,000 Argentinians, who swung shirts and flags above their heads in celebration.

Passarella, the Argentina coach, said: "Croatia are a very strong team, so we are delighted that we have come out of this achieving our aim. We have won the group and that means that we can stay at our

base near St-Etienne and prepare for the next round there on Tuesday night.

"We always had the edge and we created more chances. The team is still improving, but we have come through all three games strongly and are in good shape now for the rest of the tournament."

As the victorious team left Bordeaux last night, the city's wine festival was just getting into full flow. So were Argentina.

ARGENTINA (3-4-1-2): C Roa (Malcorra), N Vivas (Lugones), R Ayala (Napoli), P Paz (Internacional), J Zanetti (Internacional), D Simeone, Intermedios: (89min), M Almirante (Lazio), J Veron (Sampdoria), H Pineda (Lazio), M Gallardo (River Plate), sub: S Bert, River Plate, 81 — A Grieco (Valencia), sub: C Lopez, Valencia, 53, G Batistuta (Internacional)

CROATIA (1-2-5-3): D Ladic (Croatia Zagreb), Z Soldo (HNK Sibenik) — S Bilic (Everton), D Simic (Croatia Zagreb) — S Maric (Croatia Zagreb), sub: G Vavro (Valencia), 45, T Prosenicki (Croatia Zagreb), sub: I Simic, Derby County, 68, Z Boban (AC Milan), R Jarni (Real Betis), A Asanovic (Napoli) — D Suker (Real Madrid), M Stanic (Parma)

Referee: S Belkhou (Algeria)

Poor defending helps Whitmore to give Jamaica fond farewell

THE Reggae Boyz proved not, after all, to be the whipping boys of this World Cup. Japan's defence looked about as safe from collapse as the yen here when two goals from Theodore Whitmore ensured that the tournament's rank outsiders won a match played with as much desire, if less skill, than we shall see in the final.



FROM DAVID POWELL

Both countries, representing contrasting cultures, were determined to enjoy their farewell appearance in France 98. Neither, though, was contemplating defeat. The result was a game of passion and, when the final whistle sounded, there were Japanese tears.

This was Japan's last World Cup match before they co-host the tournament with South Korea in 2002. After two defeats and elimination, victory would have been good for anticipation for 2002. Defeat, however, left Japan bottom of their group and underlined the huge task that they face over the next four years if they are to be competitive hosts.

This was the last game in charge for Takeshi Okada, the Japan coach. A salary of £500,000 a year — twice what Okada has received — will be offered to attract a successor and Europe is likely to be the hunting ground.

The next man's first task will be to scour Japan for potential attacking talent, for this has been their biggest failing. Though their defence yesterday looked frail, it had held up well against Croatia and Argentina. In attack, they lack a potent striker, Masashi Nakayama's four successive hat-tricks in the J-League in April flattering to deceive.

Yesterday, without a place in the second round to play for, the only lasting impression either team could leave was to score a contender for goal of the tournament. Japan almost managed it after ten minutes when Nakata's cross found Jo, whose volley flashed narrowly wide.

Six minutes before half-time, Gayle headed a long ball out of defence into the path of Hall, whose inability to control it with his chest was Whitmore's good for-

ture. The ball ran to him and, from the centre of goal, he slipped it past Kawaguchi.

Jamaica's lead looked vulnerable when, straight after the interval, an inswinging corner from Nakata almost crept in under the bar but landed on the top netting, and Yamaguchi put a shot narrowly wide. However, Jamaica held out and went two up in the 54th minute.

If Whitmore's first goal was as easy as hitting a nail with a hammer, for his second he both chopped the wood and applied the varnish. Picking up a pass just outside the area, wide on the right, he cut inside Soma with one touch of his right foot. Then he finished with one touch of his left, striking the ball first time between Kawaguchi and his near post.

Japan were roused. Now they looked as fearsome as the dragon on the jersey of Kawaguchi. In the next three minutes, Narahashi hit a post and Jo, with clear sight of goal, shot wide. Finally, they broke through after 75 minutes. Soma's high ball into the penalty area was headed into the centre by Lopes and Nakayama, unmarked, applied the touch that gave Japan their only goal of the final.

In the ninetieth minute, Japan should have equalised, but Lopes, with the goal at his mercy, fired wide. Jamaica, as anybody who knows their athletics will be aware, produces sprinters while Japan has historically been a nation of marathon runners. Whitmore was quickest out of the blocks here. Japan ran and ran but could not find the finish.

JAPAN (3-4-1-2): Y Kawaguchi (Yokohama Marinos) — Y Akita (Kashima Antlers), M Iwata (Yokohama Marinos), N Omura (Yokohama Marinos), sub: T Hirose, Kyoto Sanga, 89min — A Nishizaki (Kashima Antlers), N Narahashi (Jubilo Iwata), sub: S Ono, Urawa Red Diamonds, 75, M Yamaguchi (Yokohama Marinos), N Soma (Kashima Antlers) — H Nakata (Bellmare Hiratsuka) — M Nakayama (Jubilo Iwata), S Jo (Yokohama Marinos), sub: W Lopes, Bellmare Hiratsuka, 59

JAMAICA (3-5-2): A Lawrence (Reno) — F Sinclair (Chelsea), O Lowe (Harrow View), J Gooden (Chelsea), M Brown (Harrow View), F Gibbs (Luton), C Dawes (Gillingham), F Sampson (Preston), sub: R Earle, Wembleton, 40, T Whitmore (Sheff Wed), R Gardner (Sheff Wed), P Hall (Preston), sub: W Boyd, Arnot Gardens, 72, M Gayle (Wembleton), sub: D Burton, Derby County, 82

Referee: G Benito (Jamaica)

Letting the cat out of the bag could be knockout solution

THE trouble with a big football tournament is that it makes you realise an important truth. That, for all its glorious history of cups and trophies, football isn't a game particularly suited to knockout.

Today the World Cup enters its sudden-death phase of golden goals (bang) and penalty shoot-outs (bang) and a lot of the fun and fairness lies out of the window. "You both have played well, my children," kindly Daddy Football says. "In a fair world, both would win prizes. But alas..." At which point, he pulls a hidden lever and England (it's usually England) fall through a trapdoor into a pit of fire.

The last World Cup final was decided on a penalty shoot-out.

This is a fact that we somehow willfully forget while getting excited about who will deserve to win this one. How can we take the heroic ascendant journey so seriously when it so often ends in hilltop farce? One's sense of let-down and dismay is only equalled, perhaps, by supporting the Labour Party through thick and thin, only to discover that the first chance they get, they take away free higher education and hammer the arts. The teams may struggle and strive and win, win, win, only ultimately to be made to look like destiny's dupes. "It was all for this!" they rightly cry.

I've only seen one penalty shoot-out in the Bush and it was like witnessing Russian roulette. Unwatchable and ghoulish, the antithesis of what you want at

football. It was in Euro 96, at Wembley, between England and Spain, a match that was already being chained to a rock while an eagle picked juicy bits out of your living organs.

I stood on my seat throughout and hated every minute. Spain had already been denied their rightful win by a bad offside decision, which made me feel dirty and guilty. Then we endured extra time. And then came the climactic penalty thing. Thankfully, my traumatised brain has blotted out the details, but I do remember that, as we walked back in hollow victory to Wembley Park afterwards, no one spoke. If it's a devastating way to lose a football match, it's also a shameful way to win one.

Other sports don't resort so often to such random brutality, because their scoring is more sophisticated. Lucky them, I say. Football is 1-0, 1-1 and that's your



lot. If soccer were an American invention, there'd be ten points for a goal, three points for a corner, demerits for fouls and the teams would writhingly slip back or surge forward by inches rather than big, solid yards. That soccer is, from a scoring point of view, absurdly primitive I only fully

appreciated last season when I took an American to a Nationwide League second division match. "Sorry there isn't a scoreboard," I whispered. My friend was incredulous. "I think I can manage to remember the number of goals," he replied, with an almost audible "Sheesh!" of scorn.

It's a shame, really, that such a complicated game has such a dumb scoring system. Nobody ever says of a golfer's leading three under par that the scoreline does not reflect his performance. In tennis, you have tie-breaks, but they are a natural extension of the game. Serve and return, maley, and make it count. Taking a shot at goal from the penalty spot is not the equivalent natural extension in football; for your Gareth Southgates, not only is it not natural, it's torture.

But as long as football is scored by goals and as long as knockout tournaments have to be decided somehow or other, we'll either

continue to have penalty shoot-outs, or come up with some other equally edifying system, such as the ducking-stool or random execution. However, I've had a thought I'd like to share here: run it up the flagpole, as it were. When the BBC show, *Pets Win Prizes*, in first hit our screens, it included a quite marvellous innovation, a stroke of genius, in which the sort of prize to be won by the successful contestant ("Week in Miami", "Two tins of Chum") was decided by... a cat. And I'm just wondering whether, you know, wouldn't it be a lot more fun to watch if the same thing happened in football?

It made excellent telly, every time. The cat, named *The Professor*, was lifted into a small pen on stage, the floor of which was

divided into segments that fit up as the cat walked about. If the cat curled up in the section marked "foldaway bikes", there could be no argument about fairness, because it's well-known that you can't make a cat do anything. It struck me at the time that, in certain intractable situations in other walks of life, The Professor might be drafted in, to settle matters once and for all.

"Professor, Brazil and Italy have drawn the 1994 World Cup final. Please have a tie-down in this box and put an end to our agony." I can picture that — I'd even welcome it. Brazil would go home with the cup and Italy would get a matching set of suitcases. Now what could be fairer than that?

LYNNE TRUSS

Everton rapped after Kendall's exit

EVERTON'S treatment of Howard Kendall, who left Goodison Park by mutual consent on Thursday, has been criticised by the League Managers' Association (LMA). John Barnwell, the chief executive of the LMA, said: "We're unhappy with what has happened and it has been a very undignified affair. It's bad enough leaving such a high-profile job, but it's even worse when it was drawn out like this."

Barnwell said that he hoped Everton

would compensate Kendall properly. He had been manager of Everton less than 12 months after arriving from Sheffield United.

Stanley Racing, the Merseyside bookmaker, is refusing to reopen its book on the identity of the new Everton manager after being hit by a deluge of bets for Brian Kidd. The firm installed Kidd, the Manchester United assistant manager, as 6-4 favourite in the wake of Kendall's

departure, but it suspended betting on Kidd after heavy wagers forced it to cut his price, first to 11-10 and then 6-4 on.

Stanley Racing has decided to keep the book closed for the foreseeable future. Jim Vondy, the football odds compiler, said: "We were getting knocked over by bets for Kidd and weren't seeing any money for any other candidate. If Everton advise the position, we'll probably reopen our book."

Belgium grateful for small miracle

RECRIMINATIONS continue as eliminated countries go home. Coaches are the usual target, with two having been sacked so far. President Paul Blya, of Cameroon, varied the criticism slightly by attacking Lazio Vagner, the Hungarian referee, for the failure of The Indomitable

Lions to qualify for the second round. Vagner disallowed two Cameroon scoring efforts in the 1-1 draw with Chile.

It is therefore refreshing to note that Belgium have taken a more relaxed view. George Leekens, their coach, has been given a vote of confidence by Michel D'Hooghe, of the Belgian Football Federation. He wants Leekens to continue for the 2000 European championship finals, which are being co-hosted by Belgium and Holland.

"I knew very well that we didn't have a strong enough squad to make a big impact in France," D'Hooghe said. "We are rebuilding for Euro 2000 and that's the reason why I appointed Leekens. It was a miracle that he got us to the World Cup finals. We couldn't ask for more."

their coach, Alexi Lalas and Jeff Agoos, both defenders, and Tab Ramos, a midfield player, said that they would never play under Sampson again, while Predrag Radosavljevic, a forward, attacked Sampson for not picking him in the starting line-up against Yugoslavia. The row could blow over, for it seems likely that Sampson will lose his job.

A German optician has come up with a novel idea to help supporters keep their eye on the ball. He has produced "Crazy Lenses", contact lenses with a football embossed on them. A spokesman for the manufacturers said that the lenses, which sell at £50 a pair, "will give you the best possible vision for the big games". Perhaps referees could be persuaded to use them — or maybe it would only confuse them further.

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CORRECT SCORE				
ITALY	NORWAY	ITALY	BRAZIL	CHILE
9/1	1-0	12/1	6/1	1-0
13/2	2-0	18/1	6/1	2-0
7/1	3-0	16/1	8/1	2-1
11/1	3-1	66/1	9/1	3-0
12/1	3-2	66/1	9/1	3-1
33/1	3-2	66/1	40/1	3-2
9/2	0-0	9/2	6/1	0-0
5/1	1-1	5/1	11/2	1-1
18/1	2-2	18/1	20/1	2-2

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WORLD CUP DIARY

Two French volunteers for the World Cup have been sent to prison for selling stolen media passes to Japanese tourists for about £300. The Japanese had the consolation of seeing two games involving their country before the ruse was discovered.

Four members of the United States squad face fines after publicly criticising Steve Sampson.

WORLD CUP 98

Injured pride results from a tale of the unexpected

The tale of the Saudi Arabia reserve goalkeeper who ruled himself out of their final game against South Africa after walking into a poolside umbrella at the team hotel seems to be getting something of a comic reaction from certain observers. This is typical of our flippant modern attitude towards the game. All sane people will have nothing but concern for the player and hope that his injury leads to a clampdown on these most treacherous pieces of vanity furniture.

For several years now, I have been conducting a vociferous, if lonely, campaign against poolside umbrellas ever since, in a high wind in St Petersburg, Florida, the table at which I sat was propelled into a large rose bush replete with a thousand thorns. I saw nothing funny in it then and see no reason to start smirking today.

Indeed, the ambush by the French sunshade is by no means the most ludicrous of sport-related injuries. How many people remember that the only reason that Nobby Stiles got his chance in the 1966 England side was because Alan Mullery ricked his back while shaving? This bizarre nugget of minutiae from the Year We Won is often overlooked because

Without wishing to crow, I want to remind readers that I have been saying for weeks now that Spain will win the World Cup.

people never tire of remembering Pickles the dog and his recovery of the stolen Jules Rimet trophy, but I suspect Alan Mullery is forced to ponder upon his treatment by cruel fate each time he reaches for the Gillette. In fact, I happen to know he constantly broods over how he was robbed of glory by simple grooming. I work on the same radio station as Alan and the few times we've passed each other on the stairs I have been clean-shaven, something you can't often accuse me of. The first time I passed him, he chose to overlook it, but on the second occasion I felt his "Good Afternoon" was a little frosty and he seemed to eye my beardline as if he felt I was making a rather clumsy point.

Away from international action, we also recall that a few years back

DANNY BAKER



Dave Beasant, the goalkeeper, lost his first-team place at Chelsea after a jar fell from the top shelf of the family larder on to the instep of his right foot, breaking the bone.

However, the ultimate tale of unexpected injury belongs to a friend who lost out on a cup final medal because of a single Fringle crisp. He, too, was a goalkeeper and two days before the Norwood and District Cup final of 1996, he went on a boat trip with a few pals.

Lying on the suntrap at the prow of the vessel, he was thrown one of the famous tubes of the snack to enjoy along with his cold beer. Thoughtlessly, he popped open the lid without considering the brisk clip at which the boat was travelling. Being a brand new pack, the top crisp stood slightly proud of the container and was suddenly caught by the wind whipping down the hull. In a flash, it was free of its brothers and airborne, catching its liberator a savage slice across the eyebrow before jetting off into oblivion. Result: five stitches above the eye and temporary partial sighting. Despite his offer to "play outfield but not head it", he was handed the black spot and missed the final altogether.

Lastly, I do have another friend who missed playing because of an innocent chicken kebab... but I feel you may have already heard that one.



Babewatch: the women were out in force for the United States match, many clothed in traditional style, but one cheerleader expressed her support more revealingly

Fundamentalism on the march to Macarena beat

To Lyons for the United States v Iran fixture. The Iranian supporters are the most fantastic set of people I have ever seen. I cannot believe that there is another group of supporters as optimistic and free-wheeling as this bizarre army of Allah. True, most of them seem to be the sort of committed fundamentalists who, at the first wobble of the Peacock Throne, grabbed the Arx and bolted for the West, but their romancing of The Old Country puts even the American supporters to shame. All day — and I mean all day — the town centre is a flood of song, dance and celebration. From a hundred top-of-the-range BMW's flies the colours of the nation that can still make the world hold its breath. Also, and I know this is not what some of you want to hear, once liberated from the code of strict religious dress... well, the Iranian women — they're babes!

Inside the ground, however, I find a small pocket of the dour revolutionary types that I'd hoped might flavour this fixture. There is a group of about 30 men — all heavily moustached and wearing the flag, sash-wise, like a gunbelt. They seem lost in devotion as they bounce up and down, whacking the tops of their heads with their palms and chanting the sort of aggressive repetitive slogans that, quite frankly, always give me the willies when presented live from Tehran on *Newsnight*. They are very close by and I hope they don't notice me trying to squeeze them into the edge of frame on my camera. They do and, for the first time in 15 minutes of chanting, they stop. The one nearest to me speaks. "Oi Baker. Don't put that photo in none of your reports takin' the piss out've us right?" They are postmen from Camden Town and they present me with a red plastic trumpet that produces a most fearsome honk. Later, short-

ly after the end of the game, I spot some true representatives of the Iranian regime legging it across some waste ground under a hail of plastic bottles and stones. Another London-based Iranian tells me they were secret police caught taking surreptitious photos of the crowd and I agree with him that anyone who risks taking sneaky pics at a sensitive match like this must be out of their minds.

One last image from a wonderful night. Over the PA, a Bryan Adams record gives way to a thumping beat that, military in its insistence, galvanises the Iranians. Still gripped by the certain idea that I am even yet about to witness the mother of all uprisings against The Great Satan, I am forced to blush when I realise I have simply failed to recognise the intro to *The Macarena*. And until you've witnessed 30,000 Iranians doing a synchronised Macarena, this World Cup really hasn't yet let you in on the Big Picture.



Drumming up trouble

A chance meeting with the Sheffield Wednesday Supporters' Band — temporarily the England Supporters' Band — gives up a story of bossybooting by security officials in France. As the band attempted to enter the stadium for England's opening match with Tunisia, their instruments were scrutinised. All the brass instruments could be taken in and the drums, too. But not the drumsticks.

"But what," presses the combo's would-be Ringo, "do you think I intend to do with them?" "Ah," counters the security man. "You might throw them at the goalkeeper when he is not looking."

Ringo fixes him with a stare of pure Sheffield steel. "But Moussieur (sic), if a player is laid low by a set of drumsticks... would it not be an open-and-shut case as to who might have thrown them?"

Fifa's foul injustice

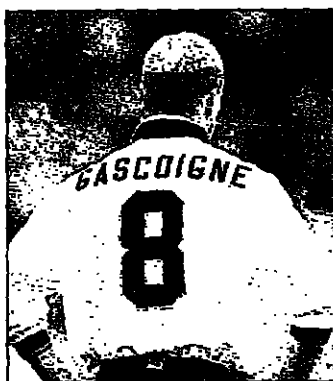
I write this moments after Morocco have been cheated out of their rightful place in the World Cup last 16 and in the certain knowledge that Fifa will do absolutely nothing about it. Had Tore Andre Flo failed a drug test, we would have seen a hundred puffed-up men in blazers announcing his removal from France with endless self-important hot air about there being no room for cheats in this tournament.

That dozens of players weren't sent off in the early stages had them blustering that paperwork had been ignored, while anyone who has attended any matches in the competition knows that you are twice forced to sit through a vacuous, embarrassing speech across the PA full of childish claptrap about how football is a fragile rose at whose core is the ideal of Fifa's Fair Play Charter. Of course, this bilious piece of Disneyesque puffery is useless in

helping to reinstate Morocco today and push the Norwegians on to the boat home, where they belong.

Poor, betrayed Morocco. After gathering enough points to continue legitimately in the 1998 World Cup finals, they are going home and have to be content with some patronising jackanape with a badge slugging his well-paid shoulders, dribbling: "Whoops, sorry boys! Missed it! Next time, perhaps. Blimmin referees, eh? Still, they haven't got the benefit of these TV cameras..." Oh yeah? Well why not? Are horse races judged by an unsighted sap in his car trying to keep up with events?

This is the jackpot trophy, the mother lode, the soccer eldorado. The Billion Dollar World Cup and Fifa, like its idiot tenacles at local level, is quite happy to reduce it all to a meaningless game of cock-eyed chance all hingeing on who's best at fooling the little man with his tin whistle.



Strange, but true: In all the television coverage after England's defeat by Romania, nobody mentioned the "G" word. Not once. It was as if it would be gauche to suggest that "G" would have been perfect to come on as lace limped off. Or that "S" is not "G", after all, and that experience and the respect of the opposition count for plenty. Now I don't say any of these thoughts are true, but I do think it's odd that nobody mentioned "G". I mean not once.

ITV are bore draw

Sorry to labour the point, but how much more energy are ITV planning to suck out of the thrill-fest? Commentators who seemingly equate total detachment to sagely incision are throttling the life out of the most exhilarating spectacle man can produce.

Brian Moore and Kevin Keegan brought to the Spain v Bulgaria game all the verve and atmosphere of a manic depressive consulting his exhausted GP during a suicide attempt in Lenin's tomb.

Brian: Well... an interesting development that could, when all's said and done, have a bearing on this game and its ultimate league standings... reaches us from Toulouse, Paraguay are a goal up against Nigeria. Kevin. (Duration 50 seconds)

Keggy: Well... there's a long way to go yet and Spain, y'know, will just keep plugging away... (Duration 70 seconds)

I've known drummers from rock bands, sprawled on Holiday Inn bedspreeds, zonked out on red wine, hash and qualudes who sounded more engaged than these two. Meanwhile, over on the BBC, they continue to give a lion's share of time to David Pleat, as though he ever does anything more than describe exactly what you are seeing on screen.

Pleat (watching replay): Yes... ball comes across from the corner... keeper gets one hand to it... defender misses his header... falls to Ronaldo who shoots but... it bobbles out for a goal kick.

Switching to Eurosport, it was like walking into the light. Crispness, vibrancy, hands playing and all the extraneous mayhem that ITV filter out. I even waited through two ad breaks to name check their rocking commentary team: Guy Mowbray and Gerry Armstrong, a health gentlemen!

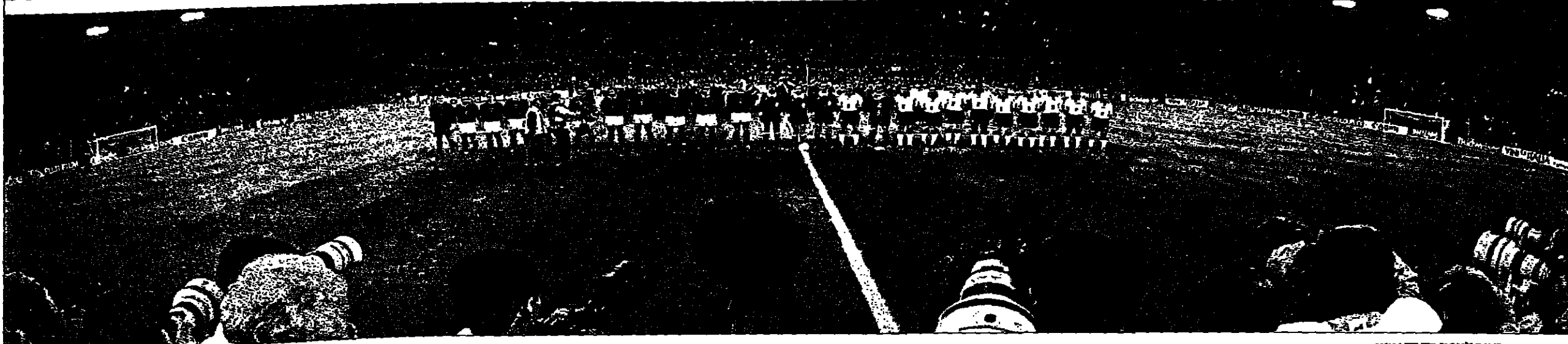
Pundit on a string

If you want to feel better about yourself and the country in which we live, then consider this. On French television, the summing up after the Argentina v Jamaica game, and presumably others, was hosted by a grinning ventriloquist and a large Footix, the mascot pupp-

It was presented to a audience of pensioners and schoolchildren, who chanted at the puppet and screamed with laughter as bits of the match were played back, amusingly edited to some gag music. While jokes about its superiority to our own post-match analysis are obvious and virtually irresistible, I truly cannot tell you how awful the whole thing was.

Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.

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THE WORLD CUP TODAY

ITALY v NORWAY

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE

Italy meet Norway in Marseilles, the venue for a similar encounter in the 1938 World Cup finals that so nearly put the Italians out of a competition in which they eventually emerged victorious.

Angelo Peruzzi's injury means that Pagliuca plays again today. Baggio, potentially the greatest threat to the Norway defence, is expected to be on the bench, with Alessandro Del Piero starting up front.

In Italy, they seem to be developing a Tore Andre Flo complex, after his fine display and thrilling goal against Brazil. It has been noted that, for all his great height, Flo is effective chiefly on the ground.

ITALY (probable): 1-2-5-2: 12 G Pagliuca - 2 G Bergomi - 5 A Costacurra, 4 F Cannavaro - 17 F Marotta, 14 L Di Biagio, 11 D Baggio, 9 D Albertini, 3 P Maldini, 21 C Vieri, 10 A Del Piero

NORWAY (probable): 4-5-1: 1 F Grodås, 4 H Berg, 15 D Eggen, 3 R Johannsen, 5 S Bjørnmoen - 17 H Flo, 9 O Lønning, 10 R Kvaløi, 7 E Høyland, 21 V Berntsen - 9 T A. Ro.

Referee: B. Heynemann (Germany)
COVERAGE: Television: BBC1 or ITV, live, Eurosport from 10pm, as live. Radio: Radio 5 Live, Talk Radio. Kick-off: 3.30pm.

HOT SHOTS

- 4: G Battistuta (Argentina), C Vieri (Italy).
3: M Salas (Chile), T Henry (France), L Hernandez (Mexico).
2: A Ortega (Argentina), M Witkowski (Belgium), Bebeto (Brazil), D Sulzer (Croatia), O Bierhoff (Germany), J Klinsmann (Germany), R de Boer (Holland), P Costas (Holland), R Baggio (Italy), R Palacios (Mexico), A Hadda (Morocco), S Bassez (Morocco), V Milekovic (Romania), S Bartlett (South Africa), F Hernandez (Spain), F Hernandez (Spain), Kiko (Spain), T Whittmore (Jamaica).

GOLDEN BOOT

Ladbrokes reported a stream of wagers on Gabriel Batistuta before Argentina took on Croatia yesterday, and tightened his odds from 6-4 favourite to 3-4. That quote remained despite his failure to add to his tally.

IN THE NET

- The Times World Cup 98
http://www.the-times.co.uk/worldcup
Coupes du Monde 98
http://www.france98.com
FIFA 1998 World Cup
http://www.fifa.com
BBC World Cup 1998
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldcup
Yahoo World Cup
http://www.yahoo.co.uk/wc98
Sky
http://www.sky.co.uk/worldcup
Football 365
http://www.football365.co.uk

Table of World Cup matches including dates, times, venues, and TV channels. It is organized by rounds: Final, Third-place play-off, Rest Days, Semi-finals, Quarter-finals, Second Round (Knockout), and First Round.



FROM ROB HUGHES
Will Brazil now show us their majesty? They play tonight at the Parc des Princes in the second round where, with much relief, each contest is for real.

Chile is a country without the wealth to reward players at home. They are essentially hard workers, water carriers to coin a Cantona phrase, supporting the dynamic front two, but three of their four midfield players - Francisco Rojas, Nelson Parraguez and Moises Villarroel - are suspended.

CARDS

Table of yellow and red cards for various players across different matches.

THE GROUPS

Summary table of group standings showing P (Points), W (Wins), D (Draws), L (Losses), F (Goals For), and A (Goals Against) for each team in groups A through H.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

WORLD CUP 98

Worlds apart watching a match made in hell



Abrashi, a former Yugoslavia coach, recalls happier days in his fourth-floor apartment in Pristina

How we laughed and how we cried in the sticky heat of the Balkan night. The gunfire crackled, bottles and glasses were ritually smashed, flags were unfurled and the honking motorcades took to the rutted streets of the provincial capital. "This is our land," the youths cried, their shaven heads poking through windows and sunroofs.

Just 200 yards down the road on Thursday night, the Queen's Club café locked its doors, quietly, and the Albanians trooped out, dejected. Their team, the United States, had lost. They relived the moment when Brian McBride's looping header had almost beaten Ivica Kralj, the Yugoslavia goalkeeper, a fleeting glimmer of hope that the oppressors could be matched. But they did not linger with the Serbs celebrating on the streets. This was a time to hurry indoors.

The business of 11 men trying to place an inflated piece of leather in a net carried a poisoned symbolism far removed from the beautiful game here in the capital of Kosovo on Thursday night. This was more than just old rivalry, Yugoslavia against America was Slobodan Milosevic against Madeline Albright, the police against the people, Europe's most tortured tribe against the new world order.

In the town's bars and cafés, the hatred succored by patriotism was not the only emotion in the feud, thunder-laden air. Albanians and

Tom Walker in Pristina on how an old rivalry at France 98 provided a brief respite for the doomed society of Kosovo

Serbs laughed alike as McBride came back on to the pitch, his head wound wrapped in a ridiculous white bun of bandaging — to the Albanians, a comic likeness to the traditional white skull-caps sported by their elders. For them, it was a farce about kinship; to the Serbs, a racist joke. "Shipitar," they cried and pointed, coining the pejorative term used for Albanians.

This is a doomed society, very possibly breathing its last during France 98, in much the same way as Sarajevo did during Italia 90. Some nostalgics believe that had Yugoslavia won then, as they could have, the bloody collapse of Tito's miracle society could have been averted — but few predict now that a Yugoslavia success can save Kosovo.

Take the Blue Corner bar, where the Serbs shot their rifles as the final whistle sounded. This was joy, yes, for all of us in the bar, welcomed to the Serb bosom, it was an undiluted happiness that told the world how great we were, despite sanctions, despite Bosnia, despite Madeline Albright, despite the lies.

In the corner, the middle-aged

men, their ties at half-mast, could barely stand as they clung to wives, daughters and colleagues and spun chaotically to the folk music lament. And how these same men needed the distraction of football, drink and dance. Ten miles up the road, the Kosovo Liberation Army had, the day before, taken over one of their largest coalmines; worse, the director's brother is a hostage, one of more than 20 Serbs now spirited away to the hills and forests.

son, a booklet entitled *The Continuity of a CRIME*. It detailed how Croats murdered Serbs by the thousands during the Second World War and how they did the same in this decade.

As the match meandered to a close and the Americans fumbled for a way through, the Albanians sighed as Radosavljevic dipped a free kick just over Kralj's crossbar. It was a Serb shooting at Serbs, the Slav from the world's most polyglot society, the Yugoslavia defensive wall against him a metaphor for Europe's most suspicious folk, the unappreciated buffer against Islam, Albania and eastern chaos.

'And how these same men needed the distraction of football, drink and dance'

On the television screens, it all made little sense. "Born in the States but of Balkan origin," Archie MacPherson explained on Eurosport as the "American", Hejduk, made a flying sortie down the wing. "Is he a Croat?" the Albanians asked, implying friendship. "Is he a Croat?" the Serbs asked, seeking more reasons to hate. Before the match, in the Serb-run Pristina media centre, we were handed, for no apparent rea-

ner of Pristina, an elderly Albanian watching in the fourth-floor solitude of his apartment block suffered a night of mixed emotions. Jakup Abrashi, 61, was a senior coach to the Yugoslavia World Cup squads in West Germany in 1974 and Spain in 1982, a once-proud component of Tito's order now reduced to the penury common to the innocent millions of Yugoslavia's collapse. "I don't support anyone," he said. "I

just want to see good football — and this Yugoslav side can produce that, thankfully. Please keep sport out of politics."

It is almost unimaginable, now, that Albanians could have played for Yugoslavia, but Abrashi was one of a handful who made it through to the game's top flight under Tito. During his playing days, he even turned out for Serbia, his midfield skills illuminating "brotherhood and friendship" encounters with Croatian, Slovenian and Bosnian XI's. "We always knew what had to be after the death of Tito," he recalled, "but I can say with pride that Serbs, Gypsies, Montenegrins, Muslims, Bosnians — they all passed through my coaching and went to the highest level."

His middle son, Shpend, played with the thirty-something generation of former Yugoslav footballers whose talents are being shown to the world in France for a last time — among them Davor Suker, of Croatia, and Dragan Stojkovic and Dejan Savicevic, of Yugoslavia.

However, at 21 his youngest son, Leon, knows only a different world. Exiled in London, he turns out for "Bashkia-Kosova" in local-league football: part of the Albanian diaspora that in Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, the United States and the world over now fund their liberation army and cheer for anyone but the Yugoslavs.

Crackdown needed to prevent players from getting shirty

AMID the gloom of England's defeat against Romania, there was at least one bright spot — the display of Marc Batta, the French referee, whose officiating hit the right level, strict but not overstrict. Batta is very experienced and took control of the game by taking control of Gheorghe Hagi, the Romania captain, early on. He booked him, rightly, for two offences in quick succession and made it clear that he wasn't going to let Hagi referee the game.



DAVID ELLERAY

Despite Batta's performance, the refereeing is still causing debate. It is hoped, now the referees are receiving second appointments, that only the best will get matches. I would expect that the vast majority will be from leading football nations.

If we look back over the group games, there are probably three issues, other than the use of red and yellow cards, that have arisen: the amount of shirt-pulling, players exaggerating and diving and players gesticulating that they want opposing players cautioned by miming the showing of a card.

Shirt-pulling has increasingly become a problem in football and is directly related to the last World Cup and Fifa's requirement for referees to clamp down on tackling. This has steadily seen fewer challenges being made with feet and more use of upper-body strength. Forwards and defenders have regularly held each other's shirts as they shield and jockey for the ball. It was shirt-pulling by Junior Balzano that brought about Norway's contentious penalty near the end of their match with Brazil this week.

We were shown a video at a Uefa referees' course recently highlighting the blocking that goes on at corners and free kicks, as seen in Euro 96. It is an accepted part of the game, as is, among the players, quite a lot of the shirt-holding. Dennis Bergkamp reacted a

great deal to low-level fouling during last season and there is increasing concern that players who are being held back, by their shirts being pulled, are lashing out with their arms — in one sense to break free, in another sense just to push off or knock away the player who is holding them back.

The referees need, in particular, to clamp down when an opponent is pulled back by his shirt. It is infuriating for the victims of the foul and it should be a yellow-card offence. What we want is to be stricter on the shirt-pulling as opposed to the shirt-holding.

THE second issue, which has been creeping more and more into the FA Carling Premiership, is the exaggerated reaction to an offence by an opponent where he is fouled and then rolls and rolls to make the offence appear worse than it was, in the hope that the opponent will be booked. This presents a triple problem: it makes it more difficult for the referee to judge the severity of the foul; it tends to con the fouled player's team-mates into believing that he has been badly fouled, thereby pressurising the referee to take disciplinary action; and it causes the opponents to accuse the player of exaggerating to get people into trouble.

You then end up with conflict between all players. Emotions are inflamed on both sides, which was seen clearly with an incident involving Patrick Kluivert, the Holland striker, in which Lorenzo Staelens, the Belgium midfielder, went down as if he had been elbowed in the face when, in fact, he had been elbowed in the chest.

On a different level, in the Premiership and generally in football, yellow cards are not given for an exaggerated reaction because it's very difficult to prove. What we have done in the past — and they do it very well on the Continent — is book those players who throw themselves down to get penalty kicks.

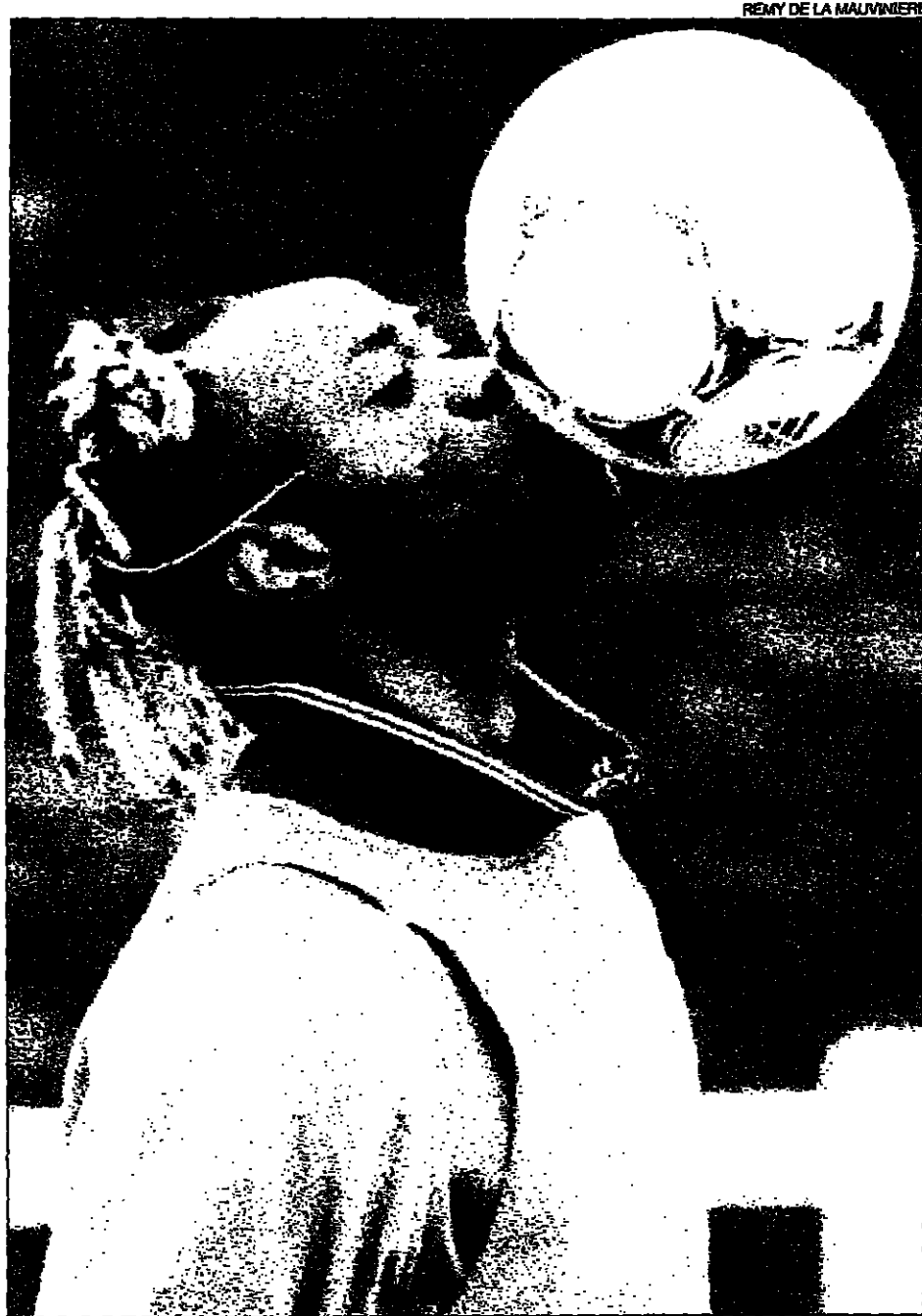
We had a clear example of this in the Romania v England game, when Paul Scholes lost the ball in the penalty area. It looked odd at the time, at normal speed, and I commented to someone with whom I was watching: "He's lost the ball and just thrown himself down hoping to get a penalty." When you saw it on the replay, he almost went in the air and came down. It was a genuine dive.

Nobody said anything at the time and he was not booked, but if that had been a Romania player in the England area and a penalty had been awarded, then the referee would be criticised immediately for making a bad decision. Yet nobody complained that Scholes was trying to con the referee.

MY THIRD area of concern is the deplorable action of players going up to the referee after a foul and waving their hand in the hope that the referee will wave a card. There has been a lot of that in the World Cup and we saw it again with Hagi when, having already been cautioned, he turned to the referee whenever he was fouled and gesticulated.

It is a situation where any player who does that should himself be shown a yellow card. I understand that Fifa has already made such a move and I welcome that. I'm sure everyone else will, too. For one professional to try to get another into trouble is distasteful in the extreme.

Referee, by David Elleray, is published by Bloomsbury (£16.99) in August. To reserve your copy call Exel on Cash Sales on 01634 297123.



West, a natural showman, performs a balancing act with the ball in training

West proud of his role as Africa's standard-bearer

His name had been echoing around the training ground for several minutes before the muscular young man finally turned, his green-plais swinging wildly, and waved towards the screaming gaggle of young French girls. Taribo West has always been a crowd-pleaser and, as Nigeria look ahead to their match against Denmark tomorrow, he is promising a performance that black people everywhere can be proud of.

Back at the team hotel, north of Paris, the Internationale centre back said: "We are the last African team in this tournament and we don't play just for Nigeria, but all Africans and all black people. There is a lot of suffering in the world and we want to do well for those people, to give them hope. Yes, it's a thing of black pride."

Nigerians are an unusually proud people and their performances so far have shown that they play with their hearts on their sleeves. They trailed 2-1 to Spain in their opening match, but bounced back in the second half to win 3-2. Spain have now gone home.

On the eve of the tournament, there were doubts about Nigeria's prospects because the team had lost all of its warm-up games, but West said that he never doubted they would succeed:

Inigo Gilmore meets a Nigeria defender who puts his faith in the power of prayer

"We knew the tournament would be different."

At the training session yesterday, there was an exuberance about the players that spoke volumes for their confidence. West explained that Bora Milutinovic, their Yugoslav coach, had helped nurture a healthy atmosphere. "When we come together, it's like one big family. We play for each other. There is a spirit of brotherly kindness."

Every Nigeria training session begins and ends with prayers. For West, prayer and his family are sources of inspiration. He was brought up in Fort Harcourt in eastern Nigeria and was spotted playing for his local team by a director from a second division club in Lagos, who later told him he recognised that West had "the heart of a lion."

Since then, he has developed the physique to match. He moved to Lagos and rented a room in one of the city's roughest suburbs. Ultimately, the violence drove him out, the last straw being a raid by gangsters during

which a friend was stabbed to death in front of him.

In the spring of 1993, a Senegalese agent, known as Papa Samba, facilitated West's transfer to Auxerre, the French club, with whom he won the league and cup double in 1996. The same year, he won an Olympic gold medal, Nigeria beating Argentina in the final, and last year he moved to Internazionale and helped them to win the Uefa Cup.

For all his fame and fortune, there is a humble side to West — for example, the 24-year-old offers his playing shirt to his former club side, Julius Berger, of Lagos, to help raise money — yet, at the same time, he remains a showman. His dreadlocks were braided in Inter's colours after he joined the club and, for the World Cup, he has swapped from blue and black to the green of Nigeria.

"I want to be unique," he said with a broad smile. "It makes me feel powerful." He recognises that Nigeria will need all the strength they can muster if they are to overcome Denmark, opponents whom he describes as "formidable". It was a lack of discipline and concentration that let Nigeria down against Italy in the second round in 1994, but, as West said emphatically: "That is past, gone, we don't think about it any more. *Finito*."

Jacquet begins to win over French hearts

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN BORDEAUX

WATCHING on an open-air big screen on the banks of the River Garonne in Toulouse, a crowd of Frenchmen cheered their team to an opening 3-0 victory over South Africa. As each goal went in, the roars went up and the beer glasses were filled. And then the screen was filled with the face of Aimé Jacquet.

The spontaneous chorus of jeers that greeted the first sight of the national team coach was, presumably, echoed from every street corner and café across France. Jacquet, a blunt working-class man, produces blunt, artisan football in the eyes of his countrymen and, snuffy about their sporting heroes, they have not embraced him.

Nothing short of World Cup triumph will do if Jacquet is not to end his days as Graham Taylor did with England — a drowning man way out of his depth in international football. Slowly but surely, though, the French public is beginning to believe that the ultimate prize may yet be theirs — and Jacquet's.

For months regarded as a jumble of a side because of the coach's incessant tinkering, the pieces are beginning to fall into place for France. The only team before the games yesterday to have progressed with a 100 per cent record, they feared a second-round meeting with Spain without their talisman, Zinedine Zidane, who is suspended.

Instead, today in Lens, they face probably the weakest of the last 16 teams in Paraguay. Zidane should not be missed and Jacquet's biggest fear is complacency. "We didn't expect to face Paraguay," he said. "It is a passionate team, very compact and they work hard to retrieve the ball. We mustn't take this game lightly. Not only will we have to prepare well, we will also have to concentrate."

If they follow Jacquet's lead, France should cruise through and, the farther they go, the more they will begin to benefit from being the host nation. It was Michel Platini who so astutely described the French as spectators rather than fans, but even the sceptics are beginning to rally behind the team.

Should they beat Paraguay this afternoon, Jacquet's team will have the huge advantage of playing the rest of their games — three if they reach the final — at the national Stade de France on the outskirts of Paris, where the

support will be at its largest and most fervent.

There are those, inevitably, who worry that France have peaked too early, but neither the 3-0 victory over South Africa or the 4-0 thrashing of Saudi Arabia showed a team at its best and, by resting eight players for the victory over Denmark, Jacquet has kept his squad fresh and keen.

Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United and Denmark goalkeeper, said: "This is one of the best teams I've played against in a long time. They did enough to be in control of the game, then they held back and saved energy for their next game. They were strong, they kept the ball really well and they are a very, very difficult side to play against. If they keep playing



Jacquet: unpopular

like that, they can go all the way."

While doubts remain about France's ability to score against the tournament's best teams — David Trezeguet is still inexperienced, while Stéphane Guivarch is unlikely to prove to be Alan Shearer's most impressive foil at Newcastle United next season — their defence is arguably as solid as any in the World Cup. Fabien Barthez is still prone to moments of recklessness in goal, but Marcel Desailly in front of him has done more than enough to excite Chelsea supporters, bringing out the best in Frank Leboeuf against Denmark.

Leboeuf is likely to stand down this afternoon, as will Patrick Vieira, of Arsenal, as Jacquet returns to his strongest team — with the exception of Zidane — for what is unlikely to be a real test of France's credentials. Italy in the quarter-finals are likely to provide that, by which time Zidane will have returned and the French public may have woken up to their side's genuine hopes of success.

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GOLF: SCOT REVIVES CHALLENGE DESPITE DAMAGING PUTTER IN SECOND ROUND OF FRENCH OPEN

Montgomerie survives bad break

FROM MEL WEBB IN PARIS

COLIN MONTGOMERIE lost his head again yesterday and, by way of a change for this brilliant but sometimes temperamental golfer, it was not the one that sits on his shoulders. Montgomerie is occasionally the loser in the mind games that he plays with his own mercurial psyche, but this time it was the gentiest of actual bodily harm to his putter that caused the damage.

After what was, by his exalted lights, an ordinary performance in the first round of the Peugeot French Open at Le Golf National here on Thursday — he had a two-over-par 74 — Montgomerie had done much to recover his position yesterday when he reached the 7th, his 16th. He had played the first 15 holes in six under par and although he would not have posed an immediate threat to Sam Torrance, the tournament leader, he would have been in a good position to make a serious challenge on the last two days.

He was perfectly placed off the tee; it was the second shot that brought him to grief, when his ball hit the green and bounced into knee-high rough, long and left and on the lower slopes of a bank. He failed to escape at the first time of asking, but got out at the second attempt and took two putts for a double-bogey six.

Montgomerie railed inwardly against the hand that fate had dealt him, but, seething though he must have been, did nothing to deserve what happened next. Moping moodily by the green, he tapped a piece of burnt ground twice with his putter, as though to confirm to himself how hard the inconsistently watered course could be. At the second tap, off the head of the putter fell the catastrophe: calamity, *quod damna*.

Montgomerie finished his round of 68 with two pars, putting each time with a bladed eight-iron, and marched off to seek an immediate telephonic consultation with Ping, his putter manufacturer. One can only guess how the discussion proceeded, especially as it was the third putter, which he has made specially for him, that had broken in this manner. It is safe to assume, however, that Montgomerie expressed some mild dissatisfaction. And then some.

When Montgomerie was in the United States the week



Montgomerie and caddie find time to watch jets from a nearby airport during a turbulent second round of the Peugeot French Open yesterday

before the US Open, a Ping technician told him that there was a hairline fracture in one of the clubs, the head of which he then proceeded to break off with a gentle tug. Another subsequently went the same way, so now the great man has none left.

David Garland, the tournament director, later spoke to Jimmy Rae, the caddy of Paul McGinley, who was playing with Montgomerie, and Rae confirmed that Montgomerie had not been gripped by a red mist when the mishap occurred. Having sought and got

corroboration from Montgomerie, no action was taken by Garland, who judged that the player had done nothing to contravene the PGA European Tour's guidelines on general etiquette.

Montgomerie ended the day eight strokes behind Torrance, but he remained optimistic. "I reckon 18 under par will win this, so I need two 64s," he said. "The way I'm playing, I can do that. I'm still right in there."

Nobody else eight shots astern of the leader would give himself even a long-odds

chance of challenging for the title, but Montgomerie is nothing but positive. All power to him, but eight strokes takes a deal of recovering, if he pulls it off this weekend, it will constitute one of the more remarkable achievements of even his extraordinary career.

Torrance, meanwhile, had a 70 that was six shots worse than his first round. On 134, ten under par, two clear of Massimo Florioi, three ahead of Michael Campbell and Marc Farry and four in front of Wayne Riley and Jean van de Velde, he was still brimming over with confidence.

"If anything, I hit the ball even better today," he said. "That's tremendous for the weekend. My swing is right in the slot. I had reasonable chances for birdies at the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, which all shaved the hole." If he had not, he would be out of sight by now. He remains, though, the favourite; unless, that is, Montgomerie gets the idea of a momentous victory into his head.



Torrance, the leader, hits a bunker shot at Le Golf National

SCORES FROM PARIS

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 134-5 Torrance (64, 70), M Florioi (68, 67), 137-1 M Campbell (70, 67), M Farry (71, 70), 138-1 W Riley (64), 68, J Van de Velde (70, 67), 138-2 P McGinley (68, 70), M Szilagyi (69, 70), A Caples (69), 139-1 R Clayton (69, 70), D Howell (70, 69), R Sorenson (69), 140-1 R Albery (69, 71), 140-2 R Albery (69, 71), 140-3 R Albery (69, 71), 140-4 R Albery (69, 71), 140-5 R Albery (69, 71), 140-6 R Albery (69, 71), 140-7 R Albery (69, 71), 140-8 R Albery (69, 71), 140-9 R Albery (69, 71), 140-10 R Albery (69, 71), 140-11 R Albery (69, 71), 140-12 R Albery (69, 71), 140-13 R Albery (69, 71), 140-14 R Albery (69, 71), 140-15 R Albery (69, 71), 140-16 R Albery (69, 71), 140-17 R Albery (69, 71), 140-18 R Albery (69, 71), 140-19 R Albery (69, 71), 140-20 R Albery (69, 71), 140-21 R Albery (69, 71), 140-22 R Albery (69, 71), 140-23 R Albery (69, 71), 140-24 R Albery (69, 71), 140-25 R Albery (69, 71), 140-26 R Albery (69, 71), 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MOTOR RACING

Schumacher's tactics earn seal of approval

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MAGNY COURS

BROWS were more deeply furrowed in the McLaren garage yesterday than at any time this season as the realisation dawned that the battle for the world championship has started in earnest. There is a feeling here, before the French Grand Prix on Sunday, that the future could belong to Ferrari and Michael Schumacher.

The obstacles that hindered his progress have been falling away, one by one: his car grows ever more competitive and the combative driving style that has caused so much anger among his peers has been given a ringing endorsement by the man who controls Formula One.

Bernie Ecclestone, the head of the Formula One Constructors' Association, has defended Schumacher against the "whingers and losers", saying: "We don't want drivers pussy-footing. I'm getting a bit fed up hearing all the complaints about Michael's driving."

"I don't know what people are harping on about. He is a racer and it is a pity that there aren't more like him. He is in the same mould as Nigel Mansell and Ayrton Senna. They were racers who were prepared to take a few risks, like him."

Schumacher was forced to take risks to catch the McLarens when they were so dominant earlier in the year. Here, at the halfway point in the season, he has a car that could be a match for them. If proof was needed, it came in the second practice session yesterday afternoon when Eddie Irvine, his team-mate, blasted past Mika Hakkinen, the championship leader, and David Coulthard.

Friday practice times can be misleading, but Irvine surprised everyone by heading

the time sheets for most of the session, firing up the McLaren-Mercedes drivers who skipped over kerbs and drove close to the limit — both spinning — in their efforts to better Irvine's time.

In the end, Hakkinen, in the last minute of the session, beat him by just 0.082sec. Coulthard was third and Schumacher fifth, almost a second slower than his Irish colleague, but he had been trying out a series of potential race set-ups, using only one set of tyres.

Irvine refused to talk up his own chances, saying only that he was "cautiously optimistic", but he was bullish about a car that has been radically redeveloped by Ross Brawn, the technical director. New Goodyear tyres have helped to drag the Ferraris to within a whisker of the McLarens.

"We hope to make it a tough day for McLaren on Sunday," Irvine said. "I tested the new tyres about a month ago and knew they were much better. We have rushed them through for this weekend and they are a big improvement."

What Ferrari also have is a team totally committed to

making Schumacher the world champion, unlike McLaren, where Hakkinen remains the team favourite but will have to scrap with Coulthard. If they do get involved in a duel for supremacy this weekend, the beneficiary will be Schumacher, who is intent on closing the 12-point gap between himself and Hakkinen.

Irvine makes no bones about the fact that he will move aside to let Schumacher through and predicts that the German will take the title simply because while Ferrari are growing stronger, there have been signs of cracks appearing in the McLaren facade of confidence.

"Michael can still win this championship, there's no doubt about that," Irvine said. "I would put my money on Michael before Hakkinen every time."

Ron Dennis, the McLaren team principal, remained his usual phlegmatic self yesterday, but how he must rue allowing Schumacher two victories in the first half of a season when his team was clearly superior. Then again, forcing unlikely victories against the odds is a measure of Schumacher's talent. In Brazil, he used brute force to shove Coulthard aside, while in Canada, three weeks ago, he antagonised most of the drivers by the way that he pushed the Williams of Heinz-Harald Frentzen off the circuit.

The race on Sunday looks likely to help shape the destinies of many of its participants. Aside from the uncertainties now plaguing Hakkinen and Coulthard, doubts surround the future of Frentzen. He admitted yesterday that he probably will not be at Williams next year, while Jacques Villeneuve, his team-mate and the world champion, remains a target for British American Racing, the team that has bought out Tyrrell for next year.

One driver who has not survived the halfway cut is Jan Magnussen, who has been fired by Stewart Ford, to be replaced by Jos Verstappen. The former Benetton driver grabbed his opportunity by performing well in tests last week and was brought in immediately for this race, a welcome boost for a capable performer long ignored by Formula One. Magnussen does not lack talent, but though he promised much, he failed to deliver.



Verstappen: back on grid

DETAILS FROM MAGNY COURS

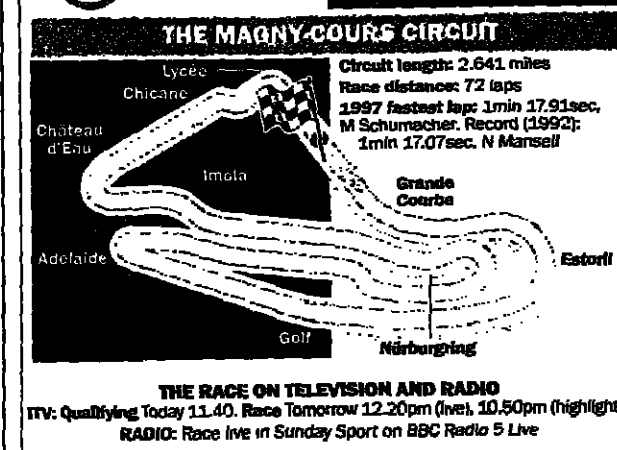
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after seven rounds): Drivers: 1, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 48pts; 2, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 34; 3, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 25; 4, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 19; 5, G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 13; 6, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton) 12; equal 7, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams) and J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 8; 8, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 6; equal 10, J Alesi (Fr, Sauber) and M Salo (Fin, Arrows) 3; equal 12, J Herbert (GB, Sauber), P Diriz (Br, Arrows) and J Magnussen (Den, Stewart) 1; Constructors: 1, McLaren 75pts; 2, Ferrari 52; 3, Benetton 26; 4, Williams 16; 5, Stewart 5; equal 6, Sauber and Arrows 4.

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, Hakkinen 1min 16.515sec; 2, Irvine 1:16.597; 3, Coulthard 1:16.707; 4, Frentzen 1:17.026; 5, M Schumacher 1:17.429; 6, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 1:17.505; 7, Fisichella 1:17.564; 8, Wurz 1:17.708; 9, D Hill (GB, Jordan) 1:17.855; 10, Herbert 1:17.977; 11, J Trull (It, Prost-Peugeot) 1:18.008; 12, Alesi 1:18.272; 13, J Pavesi (Fr, Prost-Peugeot) 1:18.367; 14, R Rosset (Br, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:18.649; 15, Salo 1:18.656; 16, Barrichello 1:18.703; 17, Villeneuve 1:19.008; 18, Diriz 1:19.023; 19, T Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:19.057; 20, J Verstappen (Hol, Stewart-Ford) 1:20.288; 21, S Nagano (Japan, Minardi-Ford) 1:20.445; 22, E Turo (Arg, Minardi-Ford) 1:20.871.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: French (Magny Cours), July 12; British (Silverstone), July 26; Austrian (Spielberg), August 2; German (Hockenheim), Aug 16; Hungarian (Budapest), August 30; Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps), September 13; Italian (Monza), September 27; Luxembourg (Nurburgring), October 11; Portuguese (Estoril), November 1; Japanese (Suzuka).

GRAND PRIX 1998: HOW THEY STAND FOR FRANCE

WEST McLAREN MERCEDES Position: 1 Points: 75	8. Mika Hakkinen Position: 1 Points: 48 1998 best: 1
7. David Coulthard Position: 3 Points: 25 1998 best: 1	4. Eddie Irvine Position: 4 Points: 19 1998 best: 3
SCUDERIA FERRARI MARLBORO Position: 2 Points: 52	3. Michael Schumacher Position: 2 Points: 34 1998 best: 1
BENETTON FORMULA ONE Position: 3 Points: 26	5. Giancarlo Fisichella Position: 5 Points: 13 1998 best: 2
WINFIELD WILLIAMS Position: 4 Points: 16	2. Heinz-Harald Frentzen Position: 7 Points: 3 1998 best: 3
1. Jacques Villeneuve Position: 7 Points: 8 1998 best: 4	6. Alexander Wurz Position: 6 Points: 12 1998 best: 4
STEWART FORD Position: 5 Points: 5	16. Rubens Barrichello Position: 9 Points: 5 1998 best: 5
19. Jos Verstappen	14. Johnny Herbert Position: 12 Points: 1 1998 best: 6
SAUBER PETRONAS Position: 6 Points: 4	15. Jean Alesi Position: 10 Points: 3 1998 best: 5
DANKA ARROWS Position: 6 Points: 4	16. Pedro Diniz Position: 12 Points: 1 1998 best: 6
JORDAN MUGEN-HONDA	17. Mika Salo Position: 10 Points: 3 1998 best: 4
PROST PEUGEOT	9. Damon Hill 1998 best: 8
12. Jarno Trull 1998 best: 9	11. Olivier Panis 1998 best: 9
TYRRELL FORD	20. Toranosuke Takagi 1998 best: 11
21. Ricardo Rosset 1998 best: 8	22. Shinji Nakano 1998 best: 7
MINARDI TEAM	23. Esteban Tuero 1998 best: 8



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RUGBY LEAGUE

Bentley fires burning again after black days

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AFTER a year in rugby union that John Bentley would rather forget, one that followed his adventure as a British Lion in South Africa, Cleekeaton's finest is back earning his living in rugby league for Halifax Blue Sox. The inner fires, which were doused during a troubled season at Newcastle, have been re-ignited on the return to his preferred code.

"Ask Scott Gibbs, or any of the rugby league lot at Newcastle, and they love league," Bentley said. "Don't get me wrong, my Lions' experience was the best rugby of my career for sheer intensity and team performance, for which I thank Newcastle and Fran Cotton, but, on a week-to-week basis, league offers me more in terms of being the best product."

Bentley stresses that he intends no criticism of union — certainly, league could never have elevated him to cult hero as Lions' funnyman, leading try-scorer, author, pundit, video star and after-dinner speaker. Alan Tait, another returnee from league, says that tries like his memorable Lions' solo effort against Gauteng were a regular feature for Bentley at Thruxton Hall, but the player himself disagrees. "It would be wrong for me to say that, because that try was special," Bentley said. "I'd never scored one as vital as that."

Bentley, who embodied the spirit of the victorious Lions in South Africa, trots out the words "commitment" and "enthusiasm" like a mantra in support of the other code. "That's why I couldn't wait for the league season to come along, to re-build some of the confidence that had disappeared. Everyone goes through periods of self-doubt when they've got to dig deep," he said.

Bentley was dropped by Newcastle, after disagreements with the team management, and then loaned out to Rotherham. Back with Halifax this season, he spent five frustrating weeks on the sidelines with a knee injury before finally reminding Blue Sox supporters what they had been missing in their victory over Salford in the JJB Super League two weeks ago. The 31-year-old skinned his opposite number down the touchline for his 122nd try for Halifax, eight minutes after he had come on as a half-time substitute. Those supporters with short memories, who had been handing out some abuse in Bentley's direction, were among the first to their feet in acclamation.

"It was nice, because beforehand I can't remember being so nervous. Some of the comments about my commitment hurt because the only way I



Bentley is happiest when he is playing rugby league

play is to be 100 per cent committed," Bentley said. "I know some thought I'd never play for the Blue Sox again, but that wasn't the case. I couldn't wait to get back and to get injured early at Warrington was appalling timing. "It was so frustrating that I thought for the first time about packing in — but how could I? I've still too much to prove. Besides, I couldn't walk into Halifax and not be



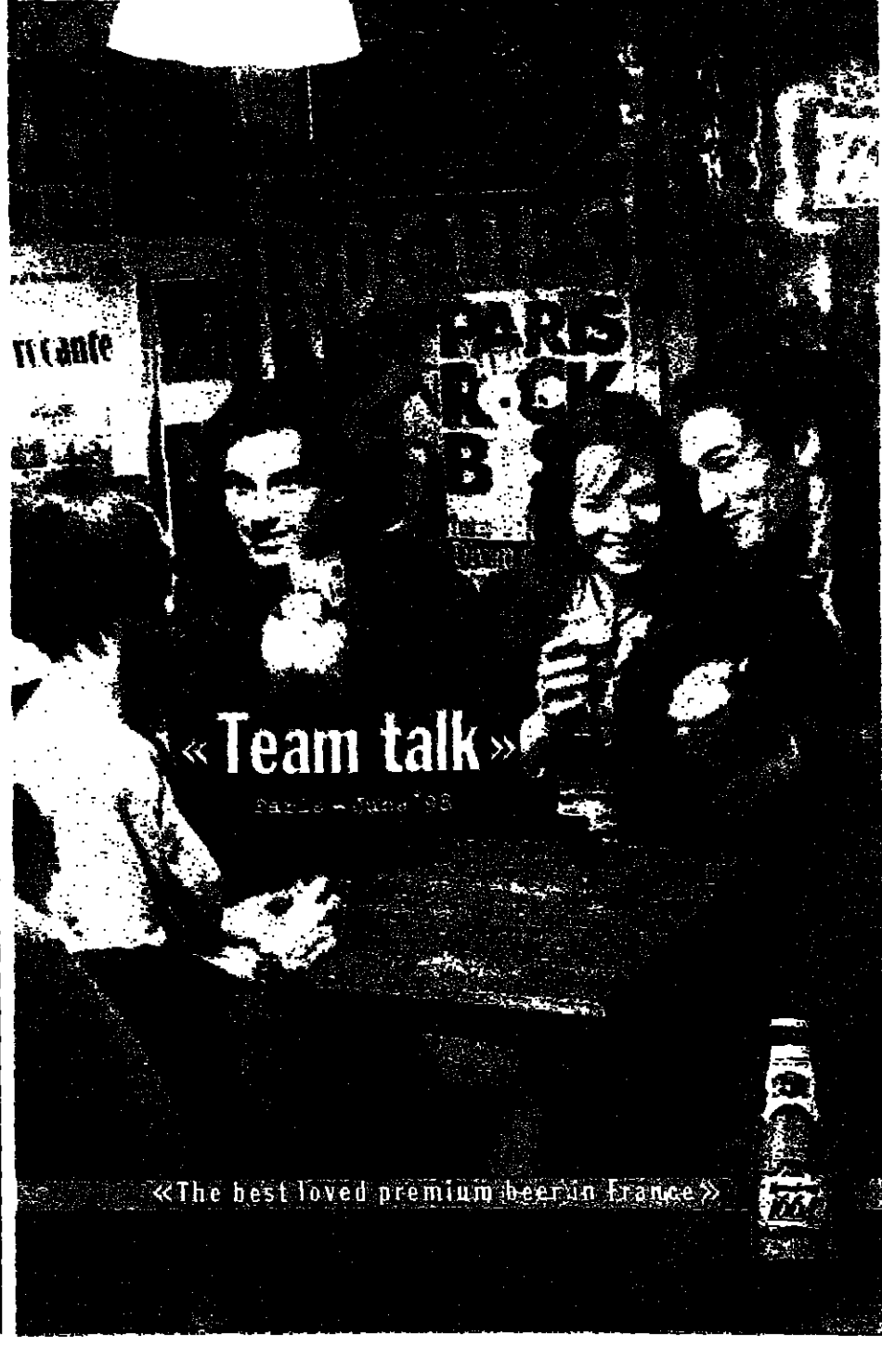
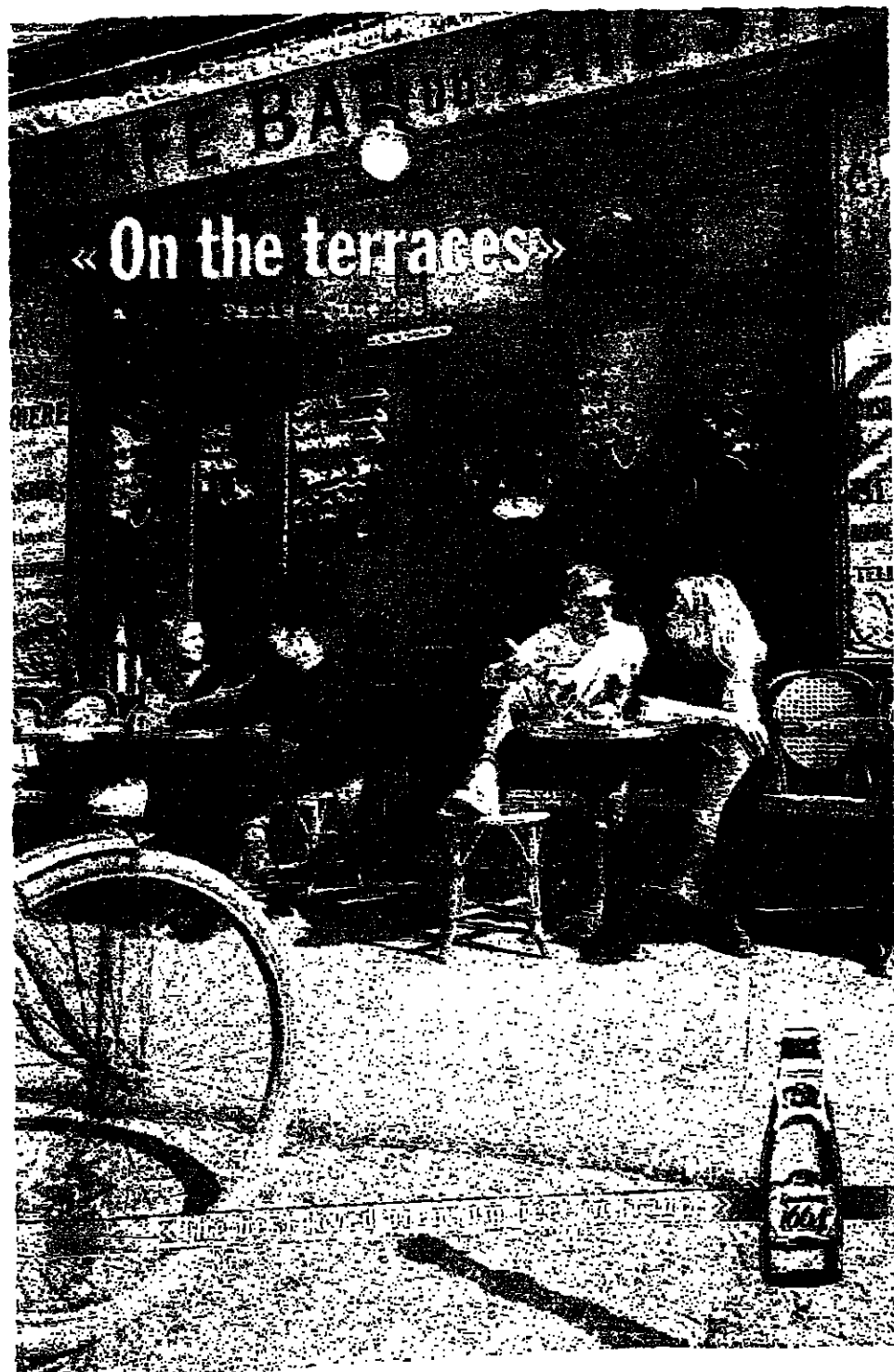
Bentley: cult figure on tour of South Africa

conscious of them saying this about me and money and rugby union. Yes, money was a big factor in going back to union, but I'm back because I love the game and have missed it."

Without Newcastle, Bentley acknowledges that he would not have found enduring fame as a Lion, but when he returned there last season from a brief spell at Halifax, interrupted by a rib cartilage injury, the rot set in. As someone who spoke his mind and queried the sides' pragmatic approach under Rob Andrew and Dean Ryan, he found himself dropped. Of his spell at Rotherham, he regrets that his heart was not in it.

"When I returned to Newcastle, I was still way up there after the Lions experience, so a part of me is to blame, too. I was disappointed how it turned out. At Rotherham, I was poor and if I could play for them again, I'd love to make it up," Bentley said.

In truth, he has nothing left to prove, having played virtually non-stop since a summer spell of league in Australia for Balmain in 1993. Tonight at the New Shay, where Halifax remain unbeaten, Bentley will be out to demonstrate, not just to London Broncos, that he is still very much a showman and match-winner.



Sad exit for former champion

Graf succumbs as her power game declines

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

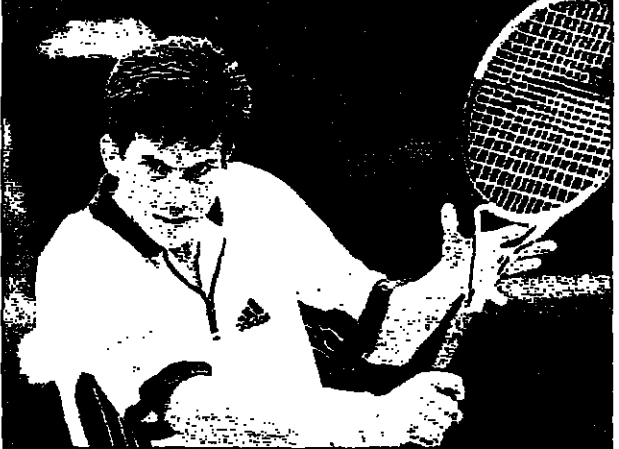
THE turning point in any career arrives when a once-potent weapon fails to intimidate. So it was with Steffi Graf at Wimbledon yesterday...



there and I couldn't feel my rhythm. I didn't play the important points very well at all...

Lack of match practice ultimately compromised Graf's ambitions for an eighth Wimbledon title. A spate of injuries, most recently a troublesome hamstring...

Black, a semi-finalist at Queen's Club two weeks ago, should have made a dangerous opponent for Henman. He unleashed some crisp groundstrokes early in the contest...



Henman plays a backhand in the first set against Black

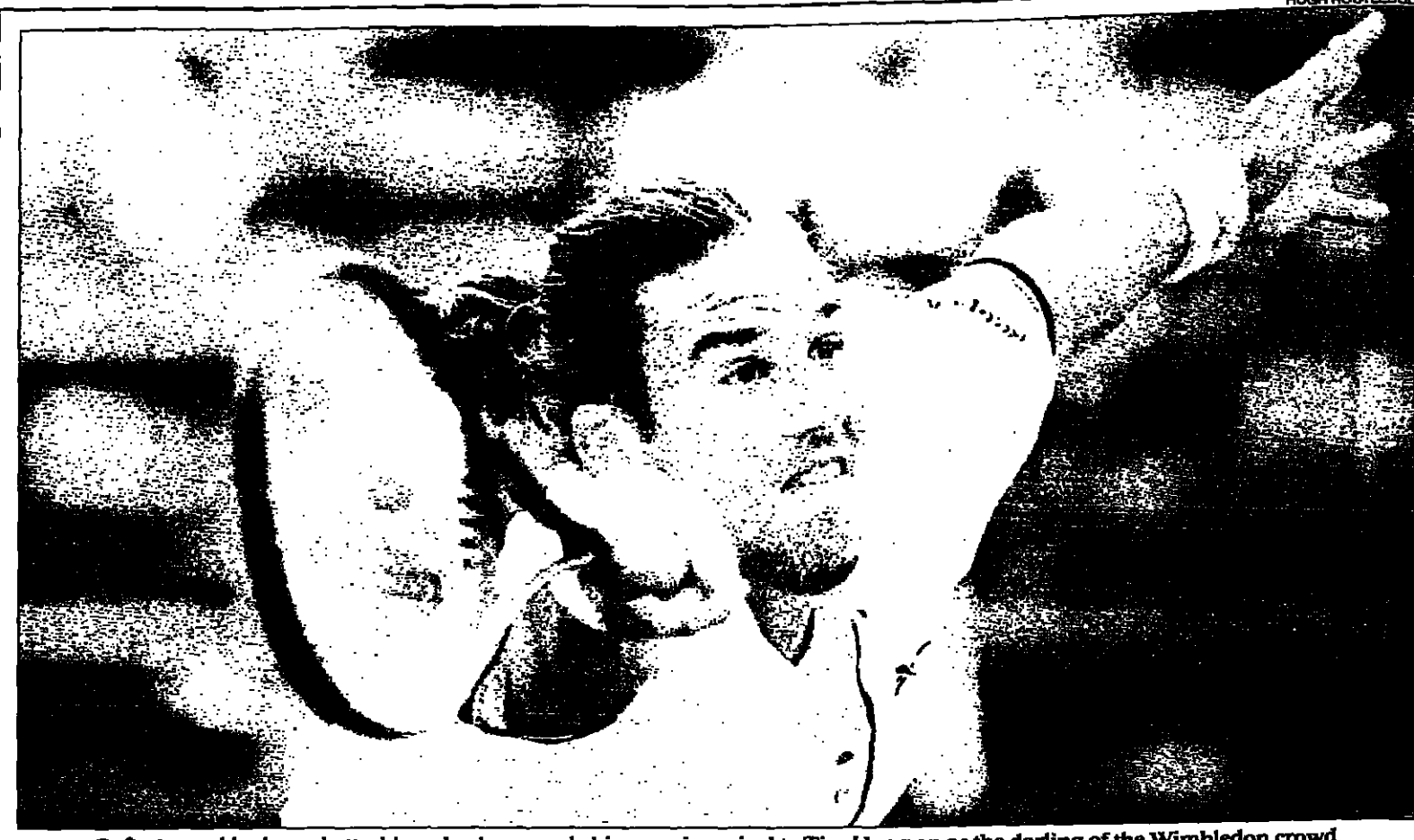
prevail over Black, world-ranked No 34, he will meet Pat Rafter, seeded No 6, in the last 16.

One man quietly going about his business this week has been Goran Ivanisevic, who reached the third round for the sixth year in seven...

By his standards, Ivanisevic has not enjoyed a productive 12 months since he tempestuously departed Wimbledon in the first round.

This could well be the moment for the man who believes that the world conspires against him. It is working in his favour this time.

Ivanisevic's short fuse was burning dangerously low when Medvedev captured the third set late on Thursday night.



Rafter's good looks and attacking play have made him a serious rival to Tim Henman as the darling of the Wimbledon crowd

Rafter warms up for true love match

It will not be pretty and it could mean war. Should it stop raining long enough for Tim Henman to make his way into the fourth round...

For a nice chap who has the US Open title to his name, Rafter takes a lot of stick. His critics mutter jealously about his appeal to the opposite sex and point to the

huge differential between talent and results, while John McEnroe has described him as a one-slam wonder.

Yet Rafter has not been having much luck recently. He lost his opening match at Queen's and complained that he never felt so flat in his life.

His contest with Gustafsson was a good-natured affair. Everyone's patience had been tested by a rain delay of nearly three hours...

Alix Ramsay on the Australian player who is courting the affections of female spectators

first service on target—and it happened rather more often than he would have liked—Gustafsson rattled back the return. Those that were not clean winners still kept Rafter pinned back...

Gustafsson's problem, though, has always been his nerve. Twice in the second set, he held three break points and twice he let them slip.

Shaking off his disappointment and giving a running commentary in Swedish on the state of his game, Gustafsson managed to break back

and sneak the second set on a tie-break. To carry the battle into the third set, however, was beyond him and Rafter knew it.

What happens next is of no consequence to Rafter. He knows Pete Sampras is the man to beat, although he is not sure who is left in his half of the draw.

Long reign of Woodies under Dutch threat

Nick Szczepanik says doubles are not only enjoyable to watch but can also be financially and psychologically rewarding

all, took them from fourth place to top in the world rankings and they are the No 1 seeds at Wimbledon.

Whether or not the Woodies' star is on the wane, their total of 50 career titles still puts them on course to become the most successful team of all time.

Most partnerships are not so durable: there seems to be no women's duo on the horizon to compare even remotely with the Navratilova-Shriver team that reached six successive Wimbledon finals in the early 1980s.

great tennis when all four players are at the net, some really good points.

That may be one reason why successful pairs are usually lower-profile as individuals. Another is that a team featuring a big name can be disrupted when a highly-seeded player pulls out through injury.

With Philippoussis concentrating on singles, who will the outside courts see on the crowds flock to see on the outside courts this time?

However, there is one sizzling pairing likely to attract attention in the early rounds: the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, who open against the No 11 seeds, Kijimuta and Miyagi, of Japan.

match: where two potential champions are paired, like Hingis and Novotna, that risk is doubled.

Nevertheless, big-name pairings are popular. Last year, for example, Hingis and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario drew a crowd whenever they played, while a large following, predominantly young and female, monitored the progress of Mark Philippoussis and Pat Rafter.

With Philippoussis concentrating on singles, who will the outside courts see on the outside courts this time? The patriotic have several British pairs to choose from but, unfortunately, one of the most watchable double acts, the Jensen brothers, made an early exit.

However, there is one sizzling pairing likely to attract attention in the early rounds: the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, who open against the No 11 seeds, Kijimuta and Miyagi, of Japan.

Doubles is, dare one say, played in a more sportsmanlike spirit than the singles. Take Jeff Tarango, a man who has been known to let the occasion get the better of his temper at times.

Last year, he took defeat at the hands of the Woodies with remarkably good grace, cracking the occasional joke and even acting as peacemaker between his partner, Jens Knippschild, and an official after a disputed line-call.



Woodbridge, left, and Woodforde show off their trophies after last year's success

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TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY AT WIMBLEDON

Table listing tennis matches for today, including Centre Court, No 1 Court, and No 2 Court, with player names and set scores.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Table listing tennis results from yesterday, including Men's singles, Women's singles, Men's doubles, and Women's doubles, with player names and set scores.

Emotion of occasion proves too much for much-loved former champion as Zvereva prevails Graf's exit signals tearful end to summer

SIMON BARNES



At Wimbledon

Too much water have we at Wimbledon that we should weep, but Steffi could not forbid her tears. It seems this week that the skies and Steffi Graf have taken turns to weep, and it is Steffi's tears that have been the more copious.

She wept with the joy of her arrival and yesterday she wept with the sadness of her departure. Back on her adored Centre Court, in front of her adoring court of admirers, she fell in two epic sets to Natasha Zvereva, going down 6-1, 7-5.

This was the eighteenth time that these two have met, because Zvereva is every bit as much of a trooper as Graf. Zvereva is as familiar with Graf's game as she is with the path of the sun — and, until now, she has been about as powerless to stop it. The record of their meetings was, before yesterday, 17-0 in Graf's favour.

So Graf wept on Friday just as she had wept on Monday. She missed last Wimbledon, resting up with her poorly knee, but there is steel in this woman — and none put there by the surgeons. She always knew she'd be back.

As she left the court, we almost expected her to make her bow to the four corners of the court, the suburb and the world, just as Boris Becker, that other deeply beloved German, did last year. Boris then told us that this was his last Wimbledon and so we are in the middle of the first Boris-less Wimbledon since 1984.

We first saw Graf in SW19 that same year. She has won it an unbelievable seven times. She



Graf bade farewell to Wimbledon 1998 with a straight-sets defeat by Zvereva yesterday, but vowed to return next year. Photograph: Gary M. Prior/Allsport



'She conducted herself with style, class and graciousness'

the grand slam (and topped it off with an Olympic gold medal), she hid behind a sheepdog mop of hair, allowing little to be seen save her Concorde nose and her Mach one forehead.

Somewhere in the intervening years, she made the decision to be beautiful. She tied her hair back, smiled when she was happy and, wonder of wonders, never troubled to have a nose-job.

She conducted herself with style and class and as much graciousness as a tennis player is capable of, even through various distressing circumstances in her family life. It is hard to behave with grace when your dad is in prison for tax-dodging, but she managed it.

And she continued to play tennis of sublime quality, and to reveal a character of rare strength. She gave no dramatic Wimbledon farewell: she believes, if no one else does, that she will be back here again and playing as well as ever. The first sighting of Steffi used to mean that the English summer had truly arrived, but now I look out of the window and see nothing but black clouds.

comes, not as a hungry young player eager to make a mark on history, but as a person wishing to make a bow to the history that made her career possible. She came here as something quite close to an act of worship; certainly, it was an act of love.

And love is given back to her a thousand-fold. Distress and disbelief filled the court as Zvereva, a player not renowned for her own inner steel, somehow held nerve and serve to carry the day. "If you start to think, it's not going to work out," she said afterwards.

Instead, it was Graf who was nervous and fitful. Perhaps she made the terrible mistake of

thinking, "I started really nervously," she said. "I wasn't moving well. I just felt I wasn't playing very well at all."

In a way, it has all come to mean too much to Graf. Her long absence from the game — she has played only five tournaments this year — has made this tournament, above all tournaments, packed with emotional importance. After her first match, she wept in the post-match press conference, not at the banality of her questioners but at the sheer delight of being here.

Like all great champions who simply must come back — and they all do — for just one more

Wimbledon, she can hear time's winged chariot hurrying near. The pressures of unforgiving time makes champions into nervous wrecks, turns perennial never-wozers into towers of strength.

Zvereva deserved this, serving calm and deep, landing 78 per cent of her first services. And Graf played a parody of the game that Zvereva knows, that we all know so well: the meticulous floaty backhand, the fuscious take-that-you-hound forehand. The shots were there, the accuracy was not. The forehand, her chief weapon, was her undoing, scattering unforced errors into all kinds of uncalled-for places.

At one point, she changed her racket — but there was nothing wrong with her racket. The fault lay somewhere between the elbow and the mind. Graf looked like an over-eager and over-faced tyro; like a veteran whose time has gone.

Wimbledon has always been a festival of love. Coming to Wimbledon is an act of love for the audience; over the years, it gets to become an act of love for the players — and a few champions transcend the normal boundaries of fandom to become quite genuinely loved.

Sampras is admired, Agassi is adored, but Becker was loved. No

one in the women's game has been so deeply loved as Graf. You meet all kinds of ways in which audiences relate to athletes — frenzies of delight and hatred, worship of heroes, wild orgies of sycophancy surround the most trivial and fleeting of talents — but Wimbledon specialises in thoughtful, fervent, long-term faithful love. Often, love grows from an earlier hatred. Martina Navratilova was hated before she was loved; Billie Jean King before her. Those with extra-long memories will remember a time when Graf was not only hated, she was considered quite unusually ugly.

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NISSAN

Senior batsman stresses need for cohesion after heavy defeat by South Africa

Thorpe's team talk offers England hope

ALAN LEE



It has been a mortifying week for English cricket and, specifically, for England cricketers. Early, ignominious defeat in the Lord's Test match brought hand-wringing despair from the hierarchy of the game and the unhappy knowledge that a public inured to such results would commonly dismiss the latest with a disdainful shrug before returning to more animated debate over cross-Channel events in a different sport.

The game is struggling to maintain its position in the sporting psyche of the nation and the England team, by which all things are judged, is not helping. Widely, and glibly, the players are derided as habitual losers, cosseted by fat fees that they persistently fail to justify. Yet anyone who believes that they do not care, that defeat does not hurt them, has not spoken to Graham Thorpe.

Players react to defeat in different ways. On Sunday evening, Michael Atherton and Angus Fraser stayed on to drink beer with the opposition and later with each other, digesting their disappointment through company and conversation. Thorpe, the strong, silent one, did not linger. "I got away quickly, to analyse it in my own way, away from the mood of the dressing-room," he said.

Analyse it he did, with a passion that may surprise those who judge him only on facial expressions that can range from inscrutable to downright sullen. "We'd capitulated, handed the game to South Africa and we all know we need to beat one of these major sides, for the sake of our game and the way we look at ourselves. No one wants to go around being beaten all the time," he said.

"When you leave the ground after a defeat like that, you don't want to look spectators in the eye. You can't walk out with your head held high, you just get in your car and try to drive away from it. That isn't what we all dreamt of when we started playing."

When Thorpe arrived at his Surrey home on Sunday evening, a neighbour greeted him. "He just said I was back early, full of irony," he recalled. "You don't want that. When you win, everyone knows, everyone wants to shake your hand. I remember when we beat Australia at Edgbaston last year, the whole country seemed to have become cricket fans."

Asked to dissect his post-match feelings, after a Sunday afternoon lull, Thorpe added: "Dreadful disappointment, both at the team performance and my own lack of



The thinker: Thorpe relishes the responsibility he holds within the England dressing-room, where his experience means that players see him as a source of good advice. Photographs: Clive Mason / Allsport

contribution. Worse still, I knew that if I had contributed, it would have made a big difference."

"A great partnership had got us back into the game and it was the kind of situation we should thrive upon, the sense that we were getting on top of a team against the odds. I really felt that if we played very well, we could win. It didn't happen. South Africa bowled magnificently, but we let ourselves down."

"As a team, we're not good enough to get away with even small mistakes. The opposition overrun us very quickly. Other sides seem to have the ability to get hold of a situation and turn a game, but if we lose quick wickets, the slide goes on. We have to churn out our wins with solid, workmanlike performances and, this week, we fell short of the consistency we need."

When things go badly, we go down too quickly. It's not a question of us thinking 'here we go again', but it is a bad habit. We recognise situations where we could win, but we just don't expect it, we don't do it naturally. That's something you can only kick by the act of winning."

It would also help, Thorpe suggested, if England were allowed, by the domestic structure, to be more of a team, less a transient bunch of individuals

rushing between engagements within a frantic programme devised for another age. "There is never time for healthy reflection, for the development of the team ethic, coming to terms with how you won or why you lost. You just have to get in your car and drive off to the next county game."

"It's bad for the side. There will be players fretting over this defeat and wondering where they go from here. As a young player, it can be hard on your own. We're all different and, after what happened at Lord's, we have to make sure we don't create an atmosphere that says they are superior to us, because I don't think they are."

Loquacious now, and assertive with it, Thorpe is demonstrating the force he has become in the dressing-room, where increasingly players look to him for wise counsel. Seniority has not come easily to him, for instinctively he is shy, protective of his privacy and prone to at least the impression of brooding, but suddenly he is relishing the responsibility in a way that may even make him a valid contender when next the captaincy falls vacant.

"I've found it hard, until now, to stand up at team meetings and say my piece. It's like do you really want to be up on that stage, do you want to be the head figure? Maybe I feel more comfortable now, but I'm certainly happy to be up front, to spell it out to players."

"I'll have something to say when we turn up at Manchester next week, because it will be crucial that players with experience lift the others, especially those who have reacted badly to Lord's. I've played enough to know that this game can throw your emotions up and down very quickly and I think I can transmit that to the others in the side, convincing them that bad days are not the end of the world."

Thorpe is a more worldly figure these days, perhaps a legacy of turbulent times in his own career. During 1997, he endured a tabloid scandal alleging infidelity on tour, then found his place in the

England side questioned after two poor games against Australia. Thorpe's way, amid such adversity, is not to rant but to retreat into silence, yet even as the team management pursued lips in concern over him, he responded with a mountain of runs.

The outcome has been a series of awards, of which the most surprising was a vote by magazine readers as the most popular cricketer in England. Even Thorpe was taken aback. "Maybe people think I'm not as miserable as I look," he said, breaking into a rare grin. "It was flattering, mainly because I've never worked on an image, never

tried to impress anyone. I love to perform well and I get shivers down the spine on the good days. I just might not show it as gleefully as some. I don't like to give too much away when I'm playing, to be honest."

It is this visible hardness that has impressed the Australians, against whom Thorpe famously made a century on his Test debut five years ago. They now accord him the same privileges as Atherton; they see no point in abusing him because he takes no notice.

Thorpe puts this down to having played football to England under-18 level. "In soccer, it's not only in your ear, you can get kicked, too. Cricket doesn't compare in terms of aggressive situations — you can say words but you can't go and punch someone. Words never disturb me. I regard it as handbags."

He has a professional sympathy with those who so openly disputed umpiring decisions at Lord's, but stops short of condoning it. "We're all guilty of overdisappointment at times. In Antigua, two Tests back, I stood too long after a dismissal and it doesn't take much to get you identified as a player who is likely to show dissent. When you're out in a Test, it's natural to feel you want to carry on and sometimes you do have to remind yourself to get off the field."

concern, for England cannot cope without his runs. The back injury that prevented him from playing in the Texaco Trophy last month interrupted a sequence of high scores. "It was unfortunate," he admitted. "The touch is missing a bit now, but I won't clutter my head with technical analysis. We're up against a side that can do different things with the ball and there is work for me to do in certain areas. I know what they are and I'm not going to give them away."

Thorpe is a complex character to fathom, but he has worked out his way of doing things. He will not, for example, read any newspapers when England have lost, but he will devour them after the good days. With words more stirring than one expects from him, he foresees some imminent good days. "We've got all the hard work to do, but you just have to look into your soul and see what you can produce."

At 28, he has a home full of individual awards, but he yearns for team success. "Even as a footballer, it was no good to me to score and end up losing. Nothing beats the feeling in a team that has won and so there is plenty left to strive for. I'd say I'm into the second half of my career now and I've done a lot of learning. Now I would like to take it to another level."



Thorpe's lack of runs against South Africa is causing concern

Younger Hollioake holds the key to rebuilding plans

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ONE DOWN with three to play in a five-match Test series does not, in itself, constitute a demand for desperate measures, but the manner of the England surrender at Lord's last Sunday must bring changes in personnel and attitude when the contest against South Africa resumes at Old Trafford next week.

The selectors know as much and the confidence with which they named a squad for Lord's without even the conventional meeting has dissipated swiftly. David Graveney, the chairman, expects the gathering in London this evening to be one of the longest and most difficult in his time as a selector.

Doubts over the likely pitch conditions and a desire for all available options will probably lead to a 13-strong party with three positions causing lengthy debate — the all-rounder, the second spin bowler and a fourth seamer behind the automatic, yet infuriatingly elusive first-choice trio of Gough, Cork and Fraser.

Three of the beaten side at Lord's may disappear from the squad. Steve James was only a late stand-in and achieved nothing to prevent the return of Mark Butcher, while Mark Ealham and Dean Headley, both of Kent, both had poor games and should be replaced.



Ben Hollioake: charisma

Despite the spectacular collapse that preceded defeat at Lord's, the top six will remain largely intact and few in the country will dispute that it is the best available. Butcher, who missed the last match with a thumb injury, will be named in the squad prior to playing for Surrey tomorrow.

Mark Ramprakash, who has yet to make much impact on the series other than through the dissent for which he was disciplined at Lord's, is in no immediate danger of losing his place, but the strong public lobby for Graeme Hick will intensify unless he makes runs next week.

It is from No 7 downwards that England will rebuild and

the departure of Ealham may offer a second opportunity to a cricketer of limitless potential and charisma, Ben Hollioake.

Life has not all been smooth for the younger Hollioake since he made his Test debut against Australia 11 months ago. An otherwise impressive tour with the England A team was subsequently tainted by drugs allegations in a magazine and, as his confidence suffered, so too did his form with Surrey.

It seems likely, though, that Hollioake will be one of those cricketers who can never be selected or omitted on the strength of county form alone. He has already shown, more than once, an enviable head for the big occasion and the time is right for England to trust in his nerve and ability.

There are a number of alternatives, the most obvious being Ben's big brother, Adam, Andrew Flintoff, Ronnie Irani and maybe even Mark Alleyne will also enter the discussion for a place that, depending on the eventual make-up of the XI, may involve nothing more strenuous than carrying the drinks.

With Gough happily restored to fitness after his broken finger, England should at last have their three best seam bowlers in action

together. There is the option, though, to support them with two, rather than one spinner and promote Cork to No 7.

Ian Salisbury would almost certainly have been the additional spinner but for an untimely injury that will keep him out for another two weeks. Such is the dearth of slow bowling in this country that only two viable options remain — a plunge into the unknown with Ashley Giles or a return to the tried, if not quite trusted, Philip Tufnell. The latter carries more logic.

If Headley is to be stood down, Chris Silverwood and Ed Giddins may once more dominate discussion for the final bowling place, but two worthy candidates are Peter Martin, who is in fine form and would be playing at home, and Alan Mullally.

Since playing the last of his nine Tests in New Zealand, 16 months ago, Mullally, a left-arm, has developed physically and technically. This year, for Leicestershire, he has bowled distinctly quicker and with the inswinger to the right-handers that previously eluded him. He might just be an inspired choice.

My XI would be: Atherton, Butcher, Hussain, Stewart (captain), Thorpe, Ramprakash, B. Hollioake, Cork, Croft, Gough, Fraser, Tufnell, Mullally.

Sour Malcolm wide of the mark

Richard Strauss advised conductors never to look at the brass players in the orchestra because, he said, "it only encourages them". Perhaps it is best to ignore fast bowlers, the brass players of cricket. When they blow their trumpets as noisily as Devon Malcolm has just done, the din can be pretty unpleasant.

Malcolm has written a book — or, to have it absolutely right, Pat Murphy, of the BBC, has written a book on his behalf. Those who have read it, and know something of the ground it covers, feel Malcolm has demeaned himself. It is not difficult to see why, for the self-justification is so relentless that it resembles the memoirs of an old-style Communist Party apparatchik.

Phillip DeFreitas, a former team-mate at Derbyshire, the club Malcolm left last year at the end of his benefit season, is appalled by it and has instructed his solicitors to see if it is actionable. Other players, some way from Derby, have made tart comments in private. They feel that, by racing in, head down off his long run, Malcolm has bowled one duff ball too many.

It is hardly Murphy's fault that *You Guys Are History* is the kind of book that Brian Glanville disparaged 20-odd years ago as "disingenuous, ghosted pap". Murphy is the barrister to Malcolm's client, presenting the evidence as

MICHAEL HENDERSON



CRIMSON GAMBLER

best he can. He has been doing it for 20 years and has 30-odd books behind him, so he does not lack experience. Malcolm has had a colourful and, by most lights, a successful career. He has played 40 Tests and is, by the game's modest financial standards, well off. He should feel fulfilled. Clearly, though, on the evidence of this book, he does not and so an interesting story of a Jamaican immigrant's rise to fame is ultimately a rather sour one.

The title belongs to Malcolm's finest hour, when he took nine for 57 against South Africa at the Oval four years ago, helping England to win the final Test and draw the series. The remark was aimed at the fielders who laughed when Fanie de Villiers skulled

him and his subsequent retaliation with the ball has kept it in the public imagination.

That was Malcolm's feast day and nobody can discount it. On the whole, though, a fast bowler who takes his wickets at 37 is lucky to play as many as 40 Tests. By the highest international standards, he is a moderate bowler, capable of high pace but not of sustaining the control that characterises the truly outstanding fast men. No captain could rely on him.

The mineral gripe at the heart of the book, the public falling-out with Raymond Illingworth and Peter Lever, has been so thoroughly mined that there is no coal left. The book gives a partial account of this contentious matter, which has been disputed by others who were also involved, and offers a thin apology for his departure from Derbyshire, with one or two barbs thrown at Kim Barnett, a man who deserves a good deal better.

Derbyshire spotted Malcolm as a raw young man, nurtured him and supported him when they thought he was treated unfairly by England. He repaid his teammates by refusing to sign a collective letter of solidarity last year and then joining Northamptonshire as soon as his benefit year was over.

There is another side to this tale and, if prodded, some players will relate it. One man who toured with Malcolm in South Africa, when Lever tried ever so slightly to amend a defective bowling action, regards him as "stubborn and lazy". Another says simply: "Dev just wouldn't listen."

Last year, there was a bizarre scene at Edgbaston, after England had beaten Australia. Malcolm scurried round the dressing-room area, begging players to scribble on any and every item of memorabilia he could find. It made a depressingly selfish spectacle and was utterly at odds with the joyful occasion, something noted by his captain, who told him: "For goodness' sake, Dev, can't you just enjoy this moment with the rest of the boys?"

Well, you pays your money, As Alan Bennett said: "What is truth and what is false? Where is Ruth and which is Mable?" Better perhaps to listen to one of Malcolm's contemporaries. "We have a marvellous life. Not everything goes your way all the time, but cricket gives you a wonderful chance of doing something you love and seeing the world. It seems that all Devon wants to do is moan."

The book bears Malcolm's name and purports to tell his life story, so he is entitled to believe that everything rings true. That doesn't mean we have to believe it.

Those who have read the book feel that he has demeaned himself

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 27 1998
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any reward

CRICKET

McMillan deprived of chance to practise

FENNER'S (final day of three): British Universities drew with the South Africans

THE South Africans tried their hand at any number of sports at Fenner's yesterday, unconcerned about the rain that stair-rodged down or the slippery grass on which they were perfecting slide tackles.

As well as an energetic game of six-a-side football, in which the British Universities also willingly participated, Hansie Cronje and Shaun Pollock hit golf balls on the outfield with the ease and sense of style of the top-class sportsman.

There was not much. Only 37 overs were possible in two bursts of play — although the truth of the matter was that the cricket was not as compelling as that sounds. There was



Donald chips away during a rain-hit day at Fenner's

no chance whatsoever of the Universities making 337 runs to win and little, either, of the South Africans bowling them out. The weather also prevented McMillan from having a bat before the third Cornhill Test match next week, as was originally intended.

Rain denies Sussex any reward

EVERY county has cursed the wet weather this summer but Leicestershire's gripes are more justified than most. Yesterday's non-event, which amounted to 18 overs of on-off cricket, took their tally of overs lost to rain this season past the 1,100 mark.

They have lost only two championship matches in two and a half seasons but much more of this grim Grace Road fare and their hopes of a second championship pennant to hang alongside their 1996 memento will disappear.

Ironically, their only defeat last year was by Sussex at Eastbourne in August, which was Sussex's first and only victory of their lamentable season. This time Sussex head Leicestershire in the county table though they did not reap immediate reward for their decision to bowl. It was not a surprising insertion given the greenness of the pitch but there were precious few alarms for the openers, Vince Wells and Darren Maddy.

that, in fact, is their preference. Donald, Pollock and Klusener, none of whom was included here, will all play, and Bob Woolmer, their coach, would rather have them bowl for a few overs apiece than stay in the field all day. Such is a top-class fast bowler's existence in the modern game.

As befits a side that has just beaten England in four days, South Africa do not countenance making changes for Old Trafford. The two half-centuries that Liebenberg scored on this flat pitch will most probably count for nothing, even if Bacher does not recover from a shoulder injury.

Cronje declared when rain resulted in a stoppage after four overs, play having started an hour late. Liebenberg and Cullinan had added 11 runs. Nothing further was possible until mid-afternoon, when the pitch had sweated under the covers. The odd ball lifted off a length, which led not only to Chilton's dismissal but Smith's enforced retirement.

Smith will return to Kent after the University match next week, as will House, who mishooked Ntini to square leg after Smith had departed. At least the rain in the morning enabled House and his captain, Singh, to attend their degree ceremonies. Upon their return to Fenner's, the latter was taken at second slip by McMillan off Elworthy, not fully forward. Chilton had gone the same way, which left the Universities in some disarray. Cronje, however, felt that to take a further six wickets — Smith was still in hospital — was beyond his attack.

South Africans: First Innings: 284 for one day (G. Ntini 226 not out, J. H. Kallis 106 not out, G. F. J. Liebenberg 52) Second Innings: G. F. J. Liebenberg not out 64, D. Pollock not out 75, Extras (D. 1, W. 1) 74 Total (no wicket dice) 741 BOWLING: Francis 8-2-24-0, Lantier 4-1-6-0, J. J. Overton 11-5-28-0, Chilton 2-1-5-0, Davis 12-3-37-0, Wright 1-1-0-0, Hudson 2-0-10-0

Gatting demonstrates his sense of history

SOUTHGATE (first day of four): Middlesex won toss; Middlesex have scored 174 for no wicket against Essex

CONDITIONS could hardly have been less agreeable for cricketers than were for Middlesex's first first-class game on the Walker ground at Southgate since 1859. A cold, blustery wind blew for every minute of the day and, on the one occasion the sun appeared, it vanished behind clouds again between the time the bowler turned to bowl and reached the crease, possibly three seconds.

Marvellous to relate, however, that the bleak occasion drew from Mike Gatting as commanding and powerful an innings as he produced so often in his heyday in the mid-1980s. Initially outscored by Justin Langer, Gatting, who



Titchener-Barrett, the Harrow opener, is caught by Ross, the Eton wicketkeeper, in the match at Lord's yesterday

Bruce shines amid the tedium

LORD'S (Eton won toss): Eton drew with Harrow

THOUGH this fixture dates back to 1805 and is without a positive result since 1991, NW8's bleak weather, the nebulous format of the game and the traditional rivalry that makes defeat unbearable meant that it was consigned to a draw long before its conclusion. The World Cup next year may force this event elsewhere, and a rethink on the game's format should be debated.

Until 1982, this was a two-day encounter, but, with Lord's eager to reduce the amount of cricket played at headquarters, it was reduced to one day. The match now lasts 115 overs, with the side batting first having a maximum of 65 overs. However, with rain accounting for 28 overs, an even quota of overs would have provided a more appetising spectacle.

Only five overs were possible before rain interrupted play on a green wicket. Even within this short period, before an early lunch was taken, it was clear that the burly-framed James Bruce carried the main threat to Harrow's progress.

Bruce removed the Harrow openers during an initial foray that repeatedly hurried batsmen into defensive strokes. Given the dearth of quality seam bowlers across the country, counties will doubtless take heed — Hampshire head the queue. Whether English cricket can tempt such a schoolboy remains a moot point.

Though the ball continued to move about off the seam, the game took on a different complexion once Bruce was removed from the attack. Despite announcing himself with a fine cover drive, Luke de Rougemont, in conjunction with

Sam Stevens, tiptoed towards respectability at first before gradually picking up the pace.

De Rougemont, 16, caught the eye with his adroit batting and, later, his tidy wicketkeeping. As the innings saw-sawed, De Rougemont and Stevens raised the tempo during a stand of 60 in 14 overs that forced Alexander Loudon, the Eton captain, into re-introducing Bruce. After a series of clearly-hit strokes De Rougemont perished in the declaration push after an elegant 77-ball innings.

Fittingly, Bruce monopolised the wickets in collecting six for 40, the best figures in this fixture for 13 years. With a target touching five an over, Eton's top-order batsmen failed to master tidy Harrovian bowling. As a result a 115-run stand between Loudon and Gurrik Maan was academic as a 19th draw in 24 matches became inevitable.

W. G. action pictures go under hammer

WHAT were claimed to be the earliest published action photographs of a cricketer were sold last weekend in an auction of sporting memorabilia at the Cricketers Club of London in Blandford Street, W1. Dating from the early years of the century, they were taken by George Beldam, father of cricket action photography, and their subject was Beldam's close friend, W. G. Grace. The nine photographs — genuine action shots, as opposed to the posed ones common to the period — were among many published in Great Batsmen. Their Methods in 1905, which was followed by a volume on bowlers a year later. W. G. was the first player dealt with in both books.

The set of prints — mounted with a four-page letter from Grace to a Captain Latham in 1903 — was produced for the book and another set given to Grace, who may have huffed at one showing him driving as his stumps are rattled by the ball. The lot failed to make its reserve price of £12,000, but later sold for not much less to a private collector.

EXTRA COVER

back to the place whose name he himself once took. Colin Cowdrey, the former England captain knighted in 1992 for his services to the game, last year took the title Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge, in recognition of his connection with the school where his batting talent blossomed. Now, Tonbridge has made a gesture in kind, with the Tonbridge Printers Cricket Club — whose links with the inky trade have long since evaporated — deciding to change its name to Cowdrey Cricket Club. The idea was that of the club secretary, Bill Warner, a long-time Cowdrey fan. The great man happily gave the scheme his blessing.

Kent's ad man

KENT advertised in the spring for a replacement for Fiona Errington, the club's physiotherapist, who was leaving to concentrate on her practice, and got a response from Martin Sygley, a New Zealander, who was in England visiting friends and saw the ad in a trade journal. Sygley's CV includes four seasons as wicketkeeper-batsman for Central Districts and first-class playing experience probably helped him to get the job, though he underwent a rigorous interview from John Wright, a fellow New Zealander.

Unlike Fiona, Sygley, 25, accompanies the team even to away matches which — in view of the reputation of Kent cricketers for going crock — is probably just as well.

Green pieces

BENNY GREEN, jazz musician, broadcaster and journalist, who died earlier this week, would have placed cricket first in his lengthy batting order of interests. This devotion expressed itself in several esteemed anthologies, most culled from Wisden. His introductory essays to these were gems. "Benny understood the social context of the almanack and wrote about it in a way no one else has matched," Matthew Engel, Wisden's editor, said.

Some anthologies may be reissued in 2000 as part of the 150th anniversary of the founding of John Wisden and Company, and if Green sulks in Elysium at being unable to edit them, he will be consoled at the prospect that he should soon be included in an updated collection of Wisden's obituaries.

Cowdrey club

In what may be described as a fair swap, Kent's most famous cricketer has given his name



Sir Colin: blessing

Having a Ball

ON the assumption that good footwork is a pre-requisite for fine batsmanship, there should be some nifty dancing at the Summer Ball in the Nursery Ground Marquee at Lord's on July 16, proceeds from which go to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and Lord's Taverners. All MCC and Rest of the World players taking part in the star-studded one-day match there two days later are invited. Tickets cost £175 each, information available from Emma Lake on 0171 222 0707.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table with cricket scores for Middlesex v Essex, Leicestershire v Sussex, and Eton v Harrow. Includes batting and bowling statistics for various players.

New England selectors decide to give youth a chance

WITH the addition of thirty-some things Angie Bainbridge and Gill Smith to the England selection panel, alongside the venerable Eric Chapman, the talk in the women's game is suddenly all about youth and openness. Their first selection — the England squad to take on the powerful Australians this summer — includes three newcomers chosen from the under-21 tour of South Africa last April: Sarah Collyer, 17, Katharine Winks, 20, and Claire Taylor, 22. They will be joined by Lucy Pearson, 25, a left-arm pace bowler who could not add to her single international cap last year because of injury. This shift towards the younger generation has not happened by

accident. "We are looking towards the future," Smith, 32, said. "We've been to the training weekends, overlapped with the under-17 and under-21 selectors and generally made a big effort to listen to everyone's opinions." "We are not just going to say we think this or she's got a nice face that fits, or she'll be good in front of the press." Sue Redfern, like Debbie Stock the season before her, has learnt the hard way that fitness is now one of the selectors' top priorities. Neither player will feature in the forthcoming one-day internationals. "Being younger makes us more in

tune with what's needed to play at this level," Bainbridge 38, said. "The coaching team made a positive step as far as fitness is concerned last winter and we decided we owed it to them to back that up through our selections." Both accept that they will not be able to please everyone. "In many ways, it's not a nice job," Smith said. "For all the joy the 14 selected feel, there is that pain for the few who haven't made it. That stands in my mind more than anything, but the players are more aware that we've been involved at this level and know what we're talking about. At least they don't have the problem of trying

to relate to somebody who is two generations older than them." Smith and Bainbridge believe communication with the players is essential. "Sometimes in the past, players hadn't got a clue what the selectors were thinking," Smith, who hung up her bowling boots after the England World Cup win at Lord's in 1993, said. "Angie is very strong about that. She believes that people have to be told head on what the problem is. Eric and I believe that's exactly right. There'll be no waffle from any of us, so the players will have the opportunity to do something about it if they want to." Both are optimistic about En-

gland's chances in the five one-day internationals and four Test matches, despite Australia's superiority during last winter's World Cup in India. "I think they believe, like all Australians do, that they're the best in the world and they don't have a high opinion of us," Bainbridge said. "For me, it's an exciting opportunity picking players you think are good enough and I believe those players can give Australia a shock." Smith added: "They'll come over and think it'll be a piece of cake. That's the Aussie arrogance and it's up to all of us to overcome that."



The covers are removed at Southgate, where first-class cricket returned after 139 years

Table with cricket scores for Harrow and Eton. Includes batting and bowling statistics for various players.

ATHLETICS: MASTER HURDLER RISES TO NEW CHALLENGES

Jackson rediscovers eagerness of youth

COLIN JACKSON chuckles that it was not so long ago that he was running like a dog: not of the greyhound variety, mind, but like that lumbering, shaggy item "from the Duhx ads". Now, though, he appears to have recovered his pedigree sheen and, at 31, the master sprint hurdler is branching out.

This time last year, one of the most graceful and gifted athletes that Great Britain has produced appeared to be listless and dispirited, with his racing obituaries being freely penned. Yet since confounding even Malcolm Arnold, his coach, by winning a silver medal in the world championships in Athens last August, he says he feels born again. Not only is Jackson threatening to reclaim his pre-eminent position over the barriers, having won all eight of his hurdles races so far this term, but he is so rejuvenated that he is enjoying a more than idle flirtation with both the 100 metres and the long jump.

"Why not?" he said. "This year is for me. It's about new challenges, it's about reminding myself why I love this sport." Thus next weekend in Linz, Austria, he will compete in his first long jump since he was a precocious teenager, with half an eye

FROM IAN CHADBAND
IN ST PETERSBURG

on Lynn Davies's 30-year-old British record.

However, his adventures start in St Petersburg today, where he runs his first significant international 100 metres for Britain in the European Cup, before doubling up in the 110 metres hurdles tomorrow.

"The older you get, the more you know and you start to feel you can mess around a bit with other events," Jackson said. Not that he can afford to mess around in the 100 metres. There are a legion of young sprinters, including Darren Campbell, Julian Golding and Dwain Chambers, who believed that their time had come to assume the individual berth vacated by Linford Christie, the winner of the previous eight European Cup sprint titles.

Instead, the place has gone to Christie's old business and training partner, who intends to prove the decision was not even remotely controversial. "I was a bit surprised they picked me," Jackson said, "but I think they were right. I am the man for the job." Why? "Experience and consistency. For me, it's a case of

'been there, done that, worn the T-shirt.' If he had a message for these sprint kids, it was: "Get out there and run 10.1sec: never leave them room to select the old man."

He felt that none of them had done quite enough to nail down the place, while he had been in fine form, having clocked 10.31sec in Athens recently before annexing his sixth Welsh 100 metres title last weekend.

"This event is about winning points in a one-off race, not medals," he said. "You cannot afford a mistake."

Jackson's best time for the 100 metres remains 10.29sec, set eight years ago, but he believes that it is due for revision. "If the conditions are in favour, maybe 10.1-something," he said.

"Going back to basics" has worked wonders for Jackson. He left his Nuff Respect business partnership with Christie and started to work more closely than for years with Arnold, his long-time adviser, amid a "vibrant, ambitious" young training group at Bath University. Another close-season knee operation makes him feel as if he has been rebuilt. Arnold reckons he has got his old Jackson back.

Now he is talking up a storm. He



After losing his way last season, Jackson says he feels born-again

still feels that he can lower his world record of 12.91sec, speculates about beating Davies's long jump mark of 8.23 metres and about achieving a unique double at the European championships in Budapest. Having been there, done that and worn the T-

shirt, what's another European Cup to him? "It's about wanting British athletics to achieve, still getting that buzz about representing your nation." The old Dulux dog has been replaced by Jackson's fair impression of a hungry young pup.

Absentees fail to dent confidence of Britain's men

FROM IAN CHADBAND

WELCOME to St Petersburg: never mind the organisational chaos, don't sing in the showers, don't breathe in the fumes and watch out for dangerous dogs on your training runs. Great Britain's athletes set out on their European Cup quest here today, having negotiated the health warnings from their team management and ready to make a statement about the wellbeing of the sport at elite level.

This is the team event that always seems to bring the best out of Britain's premier performers. In the past seven stagings, of the eight nations, the men have not finished outside the top two and a repeat performance in the Petrovsky Stadium this weekend will see them qualify for the World Cup in Johannesburg in September. That would represent a significant boost for a sport that, at domestic level, can still boast jewels amid all its disarray — a bit like St Petersburg itself, really.

Preparations here have not been comfortable. The 68-strong delegation have had warnings about an outbreak of giardia, a debilitating infection contracted from tap water, while the asthmatic Paula Radcliffe, when not avoiding the dogs while running around crumbling streets, has had to double her inhaler dosage to combat the fumes on the team bus. The recent resignation of the local organising committee and a shortage of hotel rooms have caused headaches for team managers. The track, used for the 1994 Goodwill Games, was still being repaired yesterday.

None of this has deflected the men from believing that, although now bereft of the services of the retired Linford Christie, the most prolific points-scorer in the competition's history, and depleted by

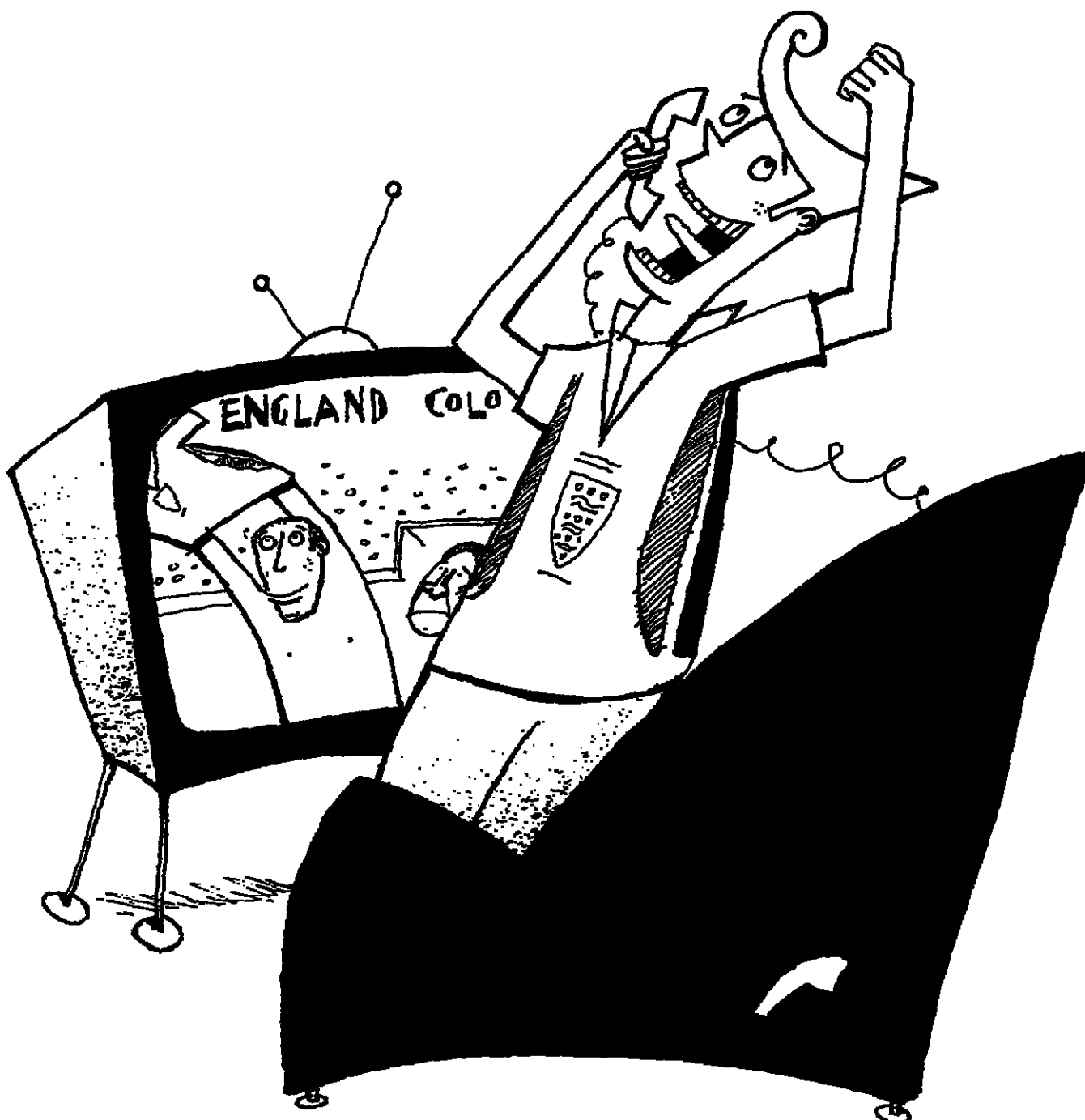
the recent loss through injury of key performers such as Steve Backley, in the javelin, Steve Smith, the high jumper, and Nick Buckfield, in the pole vault, they can still make it to Johannesburg. "I'll be bitterly disappointed if we don't," Max Jones, the team leader, said.

It will be a tall order, though, with Germany smarting from their defeat on home soil in Munich last year and the Russian hosts able to call on a strong team. Britain's selection offers a mix of experience — Colin Jackson, in the sprint hurdles, Jonathan Edwards, the triple jumper, and Mark Richardson, in the 400 metres, all look to be bankers for individual triumphs — with the untired promise of a number of competitors making their first appearances in the competition. Even Roger Black, the captain, admits that he knows nothing about these novices.

Britain won emphatically last year, a success that came about because few members of the team under-performed. It also featured the unexpected bonus of a steeplechase victory by Robert Hough. The hope is that one of the quartet of Tony Borsumana, in the 400 metres hurdles, Karl Keska, in the 5,000 metres, Ben Whitty, a steeplechaser who has knocked 18sec off his best time in his past two races, and Nathan Morgan, the European junior long jump champion, will emerge on their senior international debuts in similarly dramatic fashion.

The women, weakened by the absence of Kelly Holmes and Ashia Hansen through injury, will be hard-pushed to repeat their third place last year, though Radcliffe, who will double up at 5,000 metres today and 1,500 metres tomorrow, looks poised finally to earn her first big international track victory at senior level.

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'I had been loaned something of the abilities of the very best riders in the world'

Dancing in tune with the perfect partner

We have heard a lot, as the World Cup rumbles endlessly onward, about the *jogo bonito*, the beautiful game, but let us turn our attentions to the most beautiful game of them all, in comparison with which all other games are ugly, sordid and graceless.

It is a beautiful game, but it is not about beauty. It is about power. Dressage looks effortless, for rider and horse both. Well, you should have seen me when I got off one of the country's more classy dressage animals this week. Physically shattered, having used every muscle I possessed, and a stone or so lighter as well, looking as if I had emerged from a shower of boiling water. And positively radiant with self-conceit.

SIMON BARNES Talking horse



Look, this is going to be a modest piece, full of self-deprecation, showing a becoming — and really rather touching — low opinion of my own capabilities as a rider. But please understand right now that, behind the irony and jokes, stands a horseman of truly awe-inspiring ability.

Well, that is certainly how I felt when I leapt nimbly — and then collapsed — from the back of the glorious Truday after an hour and a half of work at the most advanced moves in dressage. Walter Swinburn said after winning the Derby in 1981: "I was just a passenger on a very good horse." I am in a position to know exactly what Swinburn was talking about — and I bet I felt just as good as Swinburn did when Shergar exploded away from the rest of the field.

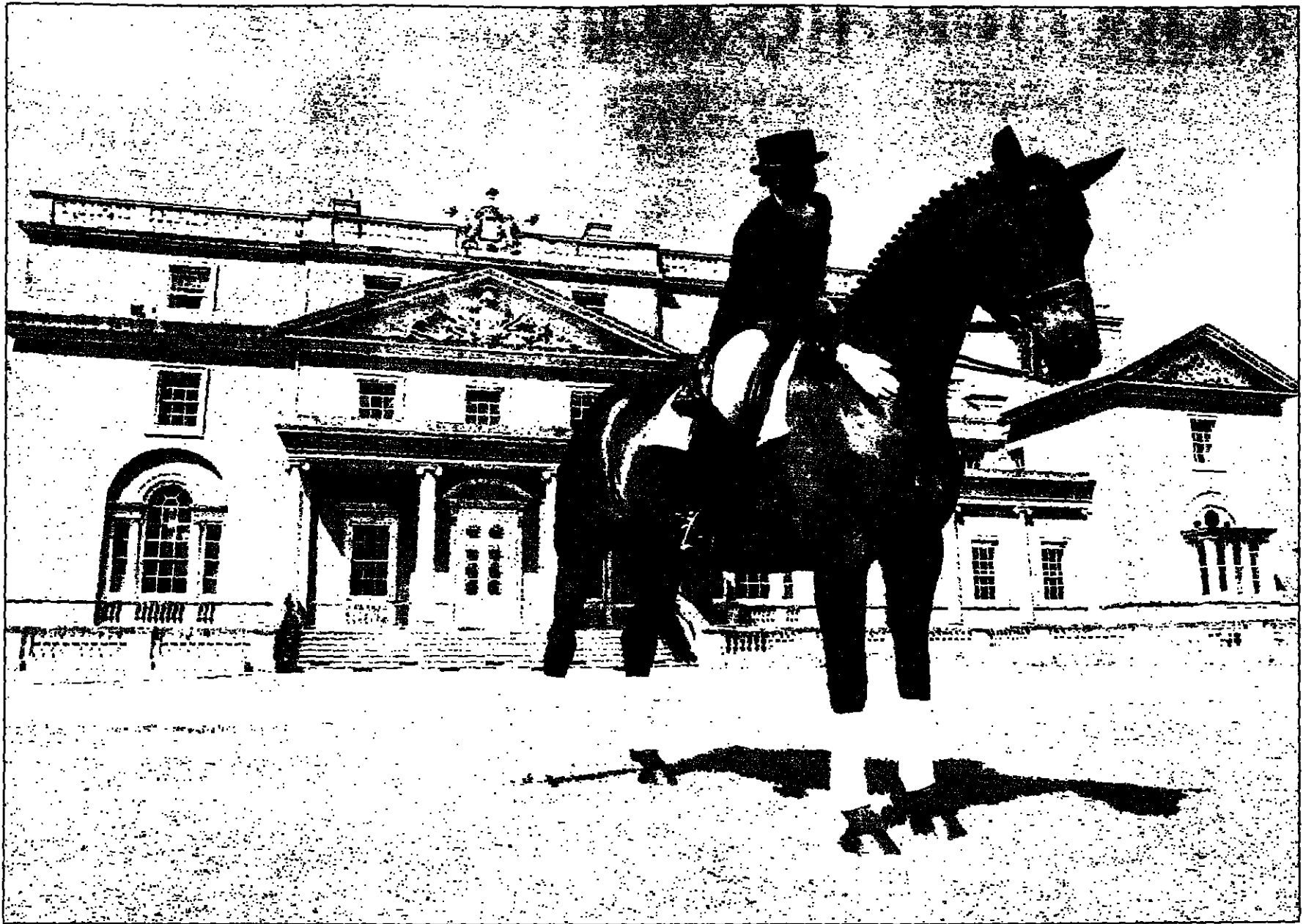
Debi Thomas allowed me to ride Truday because she knows what an amazingly good rider I am. Or if I am not amazingly good, it is entirely her fault. She was my teacher for four years, when I lived near London and kept my horses at the livery yard that she runs in the grounds of the stunning Wrotham Park.

Thomas has schooled and completed Truday up to the level just below the grand prix, which is the highest level of all. There are only a handful of grand prix competi-

tions in this country in a year, which gives an idea of how rarefied the business is. Truday will be making her grand prix debut next season, or perhaps the one after. She is 12; one of the many beauties of dressage is the glorious slowness with which talent expands and develops. Of rider and horse both.

Back in the yard, behind the Palladian mansion, stands Coronet. I have watched Thomas start and school this horse from nothing. The horse has had her on the floor more times than she cares to count. The stable girl was carrying a bandaged arm thanks to Coronet. Thomas fractured her pelvis in her best fall from Coronet so far.

Please understand, then, that dressage is not a game for wimps. Why persist with such a difficult animal? Because of the talent. Not submissive obedience, for Coronet had none of that, and anyway, dressage is nothing to do with submission. It is, as I say, about power. What Coronet has is glorious athleticism, seething promise, extravagant movement. Channeling the talent, that is the challenge. Finding the harmony. Getting a tune out of the horse, in the dressage riders' expressive phrase.



Oldenburg, who competes in grand prix dressage events, gets a pat from Thomas before being put through her paces at Wrotham Park. Photograph: Suzanne Hubbard

Dressage is at the heart of all good riding. If you can ride well, you can do dressage. I expect Frankie Dettori could ride a decent dressage test with half an hour's practice. I expect half the stable lads in the racing industry could do the same, if they gave their hearts and minds to the task.

At Hickstead on July 7 and 8, they are running what they call the Eventers' Challenge, in which the eventers and the showjumpers take each other on in an event involving showjumps, cross-country fences and — to sort out the men from the boys — a four-star dressage test. That is to say, the highest level of all, by equestrian standards. Not so very high by my standards.

No, I take that back, obviously. What I mean is, not so very high by the standards of the dressage specialists, people such as Thomas and Truday, but it will be fascinat-

ing to see how showjumpers such as Michael Whitaker and Rodrigo Pessoa tackle the dressage. But that is enough about them. Let's have some more about me. I adore dressage, which naturally means having to defend it.

People tell me it is "unnatural" and they tell me it is all about the rider's power over the poor horse. But horses don't do unnatural movements. They can't. Every single movement a horse performs in a dressage test is one he will perform when he is turned out in the field. It is the horse's power that matters, not the rider's. In dressage, you are balanced on a knife-edge. The more power you ask for,

the more delicate the balance. To my inexpressible joy, I managed to get Truday to perform the transition from passage to piaffe: the horse a coiled spring beneath me as she performed the single most physically taxing move in dressage. The rider asks for forward power and blocks it off at the same time; forward movement is converted into the most extraordinary gravity-defying spring.

Trying to repeat this scintillating moment, I was just a fraction of the way I put my request to the horse and, rightly resenting this, she shot upwards like a rocket from a milk bottle: full vertical rear with added dynamic spring from the back legs. It takes a horse of rare power and athleticism to do

that. If you think dressage is the soft option, think again.

Horses canter with one foreleg leading the other and they can change this in a single stride. This is called a flying change. It is one of the acid tests of a good horse and I managed to bring it off. Under Thomas's instruction and following my request, I soon had Truday changing leg every fourth stride. And every third stride. And every other stride. And then, gloriously, quite impossibly, every single stride. I was no longer riding. I was dancing. Truday was dancing. I had been transported, willing passenger, into the highest reaches of horsemanship.

I was allowed to get closer to the heart of dressage than is normally

permitted to any save the very best. It was a quite extraordinary privilege. It was not just the sense of driving Michael Schumacher's car, hitting a golf ball with Tiger Woods's driver, facing Allan Donald with Steve Waugh's bat.

It was also as if I had borrowed a little of Schumacher's of Woods's, of Waugh's ability — because the horse, schooled so superbly by Thomas, allowed me to take on just a fraction of her skills. For a strictly limited period of time, I had been loaned something of the abilities of the very best riders in the world. And for a few scattered moments, as we passed, as we puffed, as we danced, I was one of them.

As I dismounted, offering these splendid ladies my very best thanks, Thomas said: "I'm so glad you were able to get a tune out of her." Some tune it was, too. *Beethoven's Ninth*. I reckon. Nothing less.

'I felt just as good as Walter Swinburn must have done when Shergar exploded away from the rest of the Derby field'

RUGBY UNION: TROUBLED SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE TOUR CONVINCES ENGLAND MANAGER OF THE NEED FOR CHANGE

Uttery cottons on to grim truth

WHEN Roger Uttery presents the Rugby Football Union (RFU) with his team manager's report from the tour of the southern hemisphere, it is likely to come as meat and drink to Fran Cotton. The former vice-chairman (playing) for the RFU had much to do with the preparation for the tour and has always insisted that the structure of the game in England is insufficient to match the game here.

By his own admission, Uttery disagreed with his former England playing col-

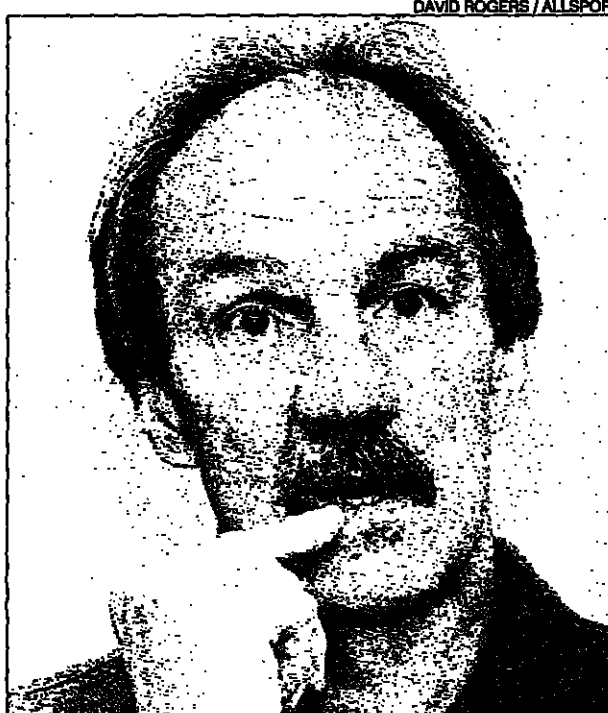
league. "I believed we were closing the gap before we came out here," he said. "That is not the case. There is a gulf, a big gulf, and unless we take measures to close it, we are never going to catch up. It has been a surprise to me to see how effective these guys are on their own territory."

The last English season contained a series of club matches that were of high class by domestic standards, but not when judged against the pace and power of the game to which England have succumbed in New Zealand. John Mitchell, the England assistant coach, believes that, in the 2½ years that he has been away from New Zealand, the size and strength of the backs has increased greatly. Their leg-power carries them through anything but the firmest tackle, their upper-body strength can compen-

sate for mistakes: even a comparative lightweight such as Tony Brown, the fly half for the New Zealand Maoris last Tuesday, could tackle England forwards to a standstill, whereas Alex King, his opposite number, found a stream of heavy men coming his way and bravery was not enough.

There is a view among the management that sheer size and the Polynesian physique found so frequently here accounts for much of England's travails, but, as Wayne Smith, the coach to the New Zealand backs this year, suggests, defensive organisation is also on a different plane. Smith believes that New Zealanders gain a fundamental understanding of the roles involved at a far earlier age than their English counterparts.

He has no fears about exposing to international rugby a player such as Caleb Ralph, 20, who made his debut for the All Blacks at Eden Park today in the second international against an England side that was missing Carath Archer through injury. "It's part of the culture of the All Blacks that when you are chosen, you are expected to be a leader straight away," Smith said. "You are dealing with tal-



England's inferiority on tour has surprised Uttery

ented, enthusiastic footballers who have been well coached, run good lines and have a good understanding of their responsibilities. Caleb is accountable, he understands what is required of him. He has the ability to become a great centre.

The same cannot be said of England's youngsters here, though Ralph has the chance

to fit into a well-oiled machine whereas his counterparts — Josh Lewsey, for example — do not. Yet Ralph is the product of a tried and tested system and England's structure, as it stands, does not produce players of the same quality. Cotton's thesis queries whether, in global terms, we can afford to wait years before it does.

SAILING

Tolkein takes all honours

THE battle for line honours in the Two-Handed Round Britain and Ireland Race was settled in spectacular fashion yesterday as the trimarans, *Spirit of England* and *FPC Greenaway*, reached the finish at Plymouth with the latter just 37 minutes ahead.

Spirit, the Owen Clarke 43 sailed by Peter Clumberbuck and Brian Thompson, had dominated the race during the first three legs and looked on course to be the first boat home, but a poor fourth leg down the North Sea and heavy upwind conditions on

By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

the last leg let *Greenaway* through.

The crews enjoyed a tight battle down the English Channel and were rarely more than 100 yards apart for about 100 miles as they beat in force five winds towards Portland Bill. The conditions, however, always favoured *Greenaway*, a Bailey 40, sailed by Richard Tolkein and Robert Wingate, which goes to weather in strong winds better than her larger rival.

For Tolkein, a London banker, line honours has come at his fifth and probably last attempt at the gruelling 2,000-mile race. "I had a message from my chief executive half-way through saying only one result was acceptable," he said. "I sent him a reply today saying: 'Instruction carried out.' I am delighted to have won. At Lerwick, we were eight hours behind, but we pulled back over the leg to Lowestoft and met *Spirit* mid-Channel on Thursday. It was only gradually that we were able to pull away."

Injured Howley likely to miss out

WALES are likely to be without Rob Howley, their captain, when they meet South Africa in Pretoria today, an absence that would leave Wales to cope with the loss of their outstanding player and Howley to rue his bad luck.

Last summer the Cardiff scrum half dislocated his shoulder against Natal just a week before the British Isles met — and ultimately beat — South Africa in the first international at Cape Town. This time, a hamstring strain has cast a shadow over his participation, although the

Wales management will wait until this morning before making a final decision.

If Howley, 27, is not considered to be fit, then Dennis John, the Wales caretaker coach, will promote Paul John, his son, from the bench and Kingsley Jones, the Ebbw Vale flanker, will captain his country for the first time when he wins his tenth cap.

Wales have lost all four of their tour games in South Africa since beating Zimbabwe 49-11 in Harare three weeks ago. The omens are not good.

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RACING Sandcliffe looks on winning mark

NEWMARKET CHANNEL 4 3.10: Redridge is improving fast and has a logical chance of having ready won a listed race this time...



TELEVIEWED RACES THIS WEEKEND

3.45: Rats second to Diktat, the substitute Jersey Stakes winner, adds well. However, Klosson's revival makes appeal at a likely odds...

Beary all liking to force the pace. That could suit runners who are held up, provided there is no significant rain...

4.15: Wanabe Grand was denied a run at a vital time and finished strongly when beaten...

2.30: Great Dane faced a hard task against Intukh in the Queen Anne Stakes and is worth another chance...

NEWTON ABBOT THUNDER

6.45 Caplan Beluga, 7.15 Keaney Waters, 7.45 Cornishack Creek, 8.15 Runaway Pet, 8.45 Chief Gale, 9.3 Sweet Cleopatra.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

6.45 JUMPING AROUND THE WEST COUNTRY HANDICAP CHASE (€2,600; 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

7.15 LIES CAN TRANSFER FREE ON JULY 6TH NOVICES JUDLE (€2,272; 2m 110yd) (7)

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: 3 winners from 188 starts, 32.5% J. Harris, 3 from 13, 22.5% M. Ryan, 3 from 13, 22.5% M. Ryan, 3 from 13, 22.5% M. Ryan...

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S SIX MEETINGS

Newmarket 2.00 (1m 20y) 3ry Lightning (R. Mullen, 11-4) 4.00 (1m 20y) 3ry Lightning (R. Mullen, 11-4) 4.00 (1m 20y) 3ry Lightning (R. Mullen, 11-4)...

7.45 IT'S A HAPPY PLACE HANDICAP CHASE (€3,500; 3m 2110yd) (9)

3.1 Damocles, Chief, 7.2 Spring to Glory, 4.1 Tiger Dots, 5.1 Meadow Hawk, 7.1 On St. James, 8.1 Crown, 10.1 Another Country, 25.1 others.

8.15 WE GOT NO FRIENDS HANDICAP HURDLE (€3,700; 2m 60y) (9)

8.45 SCOBIE OD NOVICES CHASE (€3,355; 2m 110yd) (4)

9.15 BLAZE OF GLORY HANDICAP HURDLE (€1,802; 2m 110yd) (12)

9.05 GO RACING IN YORKSHIRE FILLIES HANDICAP (€3,522; 7f) (19)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

THUNDERER 2.25 The Next Wall, 3.00 Art Prince, 3.30 Newton Star, 4.05 Woodstock Wanderer, 4.35 Newton Mist, 5.05 Carbonado, 5.35 Peninsula Boy.

THUNDERER

2.25 Missing Ted, 2.55 Ivory League, 3.25 Contary Mary, 4.00 Muysarr, 4.30 Warning, 5.00 Way Out Yonder.

6.35 BATH

2.20 WESTON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (€2,700; 2f 181yd) (13 runners)

2.55 STAYERS SELLING HANDICAP (€2,416; 2m 1134yd) (11)

3.25 LITTLE SOMERFORD STAKES (€2,815; 5f 101yd) (8)

4.00 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (€3,700; 3y-O; €5,600; 1m 50y) (9)

4.30 CLAVERTON CLAIMING HANDICAP (€3,053; 1m 50y) (18)

5.00 ST JOHN AMBULANCE MAIDEN STAKES (€3,500; 1m 21 1/4yd) (11)

DONCASTER

THUNDERER 6.35 Barfanya, 7.05 Kings Arrow, 7.35 Spring Fever, 8.05 Conny Lodge, 8.35 Bowcliffe Court, 9.05 La Volta.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.35 BFF LONSDALE MAIDEN FILLIES SKY STAKES (€2,700; 2f 181yd) (13 runners)

7.05 BAILEYS ORIGINAL IRISH CREAM MAIDEN HANDICAP (€4,305; 6f) (22)

7.35 YORKSHIRE TYNE TEES TV MAIDEN STAKES (€3,915; 1m 21 80yd) (15)

8.05 WESTSIDE MAGAZINE GROUP CONDITIONS STAKES (€2,470; 5f 101yd) (3)

8.35 CASTLE WORKING MENS CLUB HANDICAP (€3,500; 1m 50y) (10)

9.05 GO RACING IN YORKSHIRE FILLIES HANDICAP (€3,522; 7f) (19)

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BATH

THUNDERER 2.20 Missing Ted, 2.55 Ivory League, 3.25 Contary Mary, 4.00 Muysarr, 4.30 Warning, 5.00 Way Out Yonder.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW BEST SIS

2.20 WESTON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (€2,700; 2f 181yd) (13 runners)

2.55 STAYERS SELLING HANDICAP (€2,416; 2m 1134yd) (11)

3.25 LITTLE SOMERFORD STAKES (€2,815; 5f 101yd) (8)

4.00 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (€3,700; 3y-O; €5,600; 1m 50y) (9)

4.30 CLAVERTON CLAIMING HANDICAP (€3,053; 1m 50y) (18)

5.00 ST JOHN AMBULANCE MAIDEN STAKES (€3,500; 1m 21 1/4yd) (11)

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5.00 ST JOHN AMBULANCE MAIDEN STAKES (€3,500; 1m 21 1/4yd) (11)

DONCASTER TOMORROW

THUNDERER 2.00 Mazed, 2.30 Silence Reigns, 3.00 Lago Di Varano.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 VALUE BETTING 1998 EURO-AMERICAN CHALLENGE AMATEUR HANDICAP (€3,516; 1m 21 80yd) (12 runners)

2.30 HOME OF SUNDAY RACING CONDITIONS STAKES (€5,571; 1m 21 80yd) (7 runners)

3.00 TIMEFORM SPRINT RATED HANDICAP (€5,464; 5f) (11 runners)

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3.00 TIMEFORM SPRINT RATED HANDICAP (€5,464; 5f) (11 runners)

WESTCOSTER

THUNDERER 2.25 The Next Wall, 3.00 Art Prince, 3.30 Newton Star, 4.05 Woodstock Wanderer, 4.35 Newton Mist, 5.05 Carbonado, 5.35 Peninsula Boy.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.25 HAWFORD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,355; 2m 41yd) (12 runners)

4.05 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (€3,918; 2m 40y) (7)

5.20 WOODCROFT WANDERER, 7.2 Chief, 8.1 Hail Abon, 9.1 Mical, 10.1 Alien, 11.1 Chief, 12.1 Mical, 13.1 Hail Abon, 14.1 Alien, 15.1 Chief, 16.1 Mical, 17.1 Hail Abon, 18.1 Alien, 19.1 Chief, 20.1 Mical, 21.1 Hail Abon, 22.1 Alien, 23.1 Chief, 24.1 Mical, 25.1 Hail Abon, 26.1 Alien, 27.1 Chief, 28.1 Mical, 29.1 Hail Abon, 30.1 Alien, 31.1 Chief, 32.1 Mical, 33.1 Hail Abon, 34.1 Alien, 35.1 Chief, 36.1 Mical, 37.1 Hail Abon, 38.1 Alien, 39.1 Chief, 40.1 Mical, 41.1 Hail Abon, 42.1 Alien, 43.1 Chief, 44.1 Mical, 45.1 Hail Abon, 46.1 Alien, 47.1 Chief, 48.1 Mical, 49.1 Hail Abon, 50.1 Alien, 51.1 Chief, 52.1 Mical, 53.1 Hail Abon, 54.1 Alien, 55.1 Chief, 56.1 Mical, 57.1 Hail Abon, 58.1 Alien, 59.1 Chief, 60.1 Mical, 61.1 Hail Abon, 62.1 Alien, 63.1 Chief, 64.1 Mical, 65.1 Hail Abon, 66.1 Alien, 67.1 Chief, 68.1 Mical, 69.1 Hail Abon, 70.1 Alien, 71.1 Chief, 72.1 Mical, 73.1 Hail Abon, 74.1 Alien, 75.1 Chief, 76.1 Mical, 77.1 Hail Abon, 78.1 Alien, 79.1 Chief, 80.1 Mical, 81.1 Hail Abon, 82.1 Alien, 83.1 Chief, 84.1 Mical, 85.1 Hail Abon, 86.1 Alien, 87.1 Chief, 88.1 Mical, 89.1 Hail Abon, 90.1 Alien, 91.1 Chief, 92.1 Mical, 93.1 Hail Abon, 94.1 Alien, 95.1 Chief, 96.1 Mical, 97.1 Hail Abon, 98.1 Alien, 99.1 Chief, 100.1 Mical, 101.1 Hail Abon, 102.1 Alien, 103.1 Chief, 104.1 Mical, 105.1 Hail Abon, 106.1 Alien, 107.1 Chief, 108.1 Mical, 109.1 Hail Abon, 110.1 Alien, 111.1 Chief, 112.1 Mical, 113.1 Hail Abon, 114.1 Alien, 115.1 Chief, 116.1 Mical, 117.1 Hail Abon, 118.1 Alien, 119.1 Chief, 120.1 Mical, 121.1 Hail Abon, 122.1 Alien, 123.1 Chief, 124.1 Mical, 125.1 Hail Abon, 126.1 Alien, 127.1 Chief, 128.1 Mical, 129.1 Hail Abon, 130.1 Alien, 131.1 Chief, 132.1 Mical, 133.1 Hail Abon, 134.1 Alien, 135.1 Chief, 136.1 Mical, 137.1 Hail Abon, 138.1 Alien, 139.1 Chief, 140.1 Mical, 141.1 Hail Abon, 142.1 Alien, 143.1 Chief, 144.1 Mical, 145.1 Hail Abon, 146.1 Alien, 147.1 Chief, 148.1 Mical, 149.1 Hail Abon, 150.1 Alien, 151.1 Chief, 152.1 Mical, 153.1 Hail Abon, 154.1 Alien, 155.1 Chief, 156.1 Mical, 157.1 Hail Abon, 158.1 Alien, 159.1 Chief, 160.1 Mical, 161.1 Hail Abon, 162.1 Alien, 163.1 Chief, 164.1 Mical, 165.1 Hail Abon, 166.1 Alien, 167.1 Chief, 168.1 Mical, 169.1 Hail Abon, 170.1 Alien, 171.1 Chief, 172.1 Mical, 173.1 Hail Abon, 174.1 Alien, 175.1 Chief, 176.1 Mical, 177.1 Hail Abon, 178.1 Alien, 179.1 Chief, 180.1 Mical, 181.1 Hail Abon, 182.1 Alien, 183.1 Chief, 184.1 Mical, 185.1 Hail Abon, 186.1 Alien, 187.1 Chief, 188.1 Mical, 189.1 Hail Abon, 190.1 Alien, 191.1 Chief, 192.1 Mical, 193.1 Hail Abon, 194.1 Alien, 195.1 Chief, 196.1 Mical, 197.1 Hail Abon, 198.1 Alien, 199.1 Chief, 200.1 Mical, 201.1 Hail Abon, 202.1 Alien, 203.1 Chief, 204.1 Mical, 205.1 Hail Abon, 206.1 Alien, 207.1 Chief, 208.1 Mical, 209.1 Hail Abon, 210.1 Alien, 211.1 Chief, 212.1 Mical, 213.1 Hail Abon, 214.1 Alien, 215.1 Chief, 216.1 Mical, 217.1 Hail Abon, 218.1 Alien, 219.1 Chief, 220.1 Mical, 221.1 Hail Abon, 222.1 Alien, 223.1 Chief, 224.1 Mical, 225.1 Hail 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AUDI

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BMW

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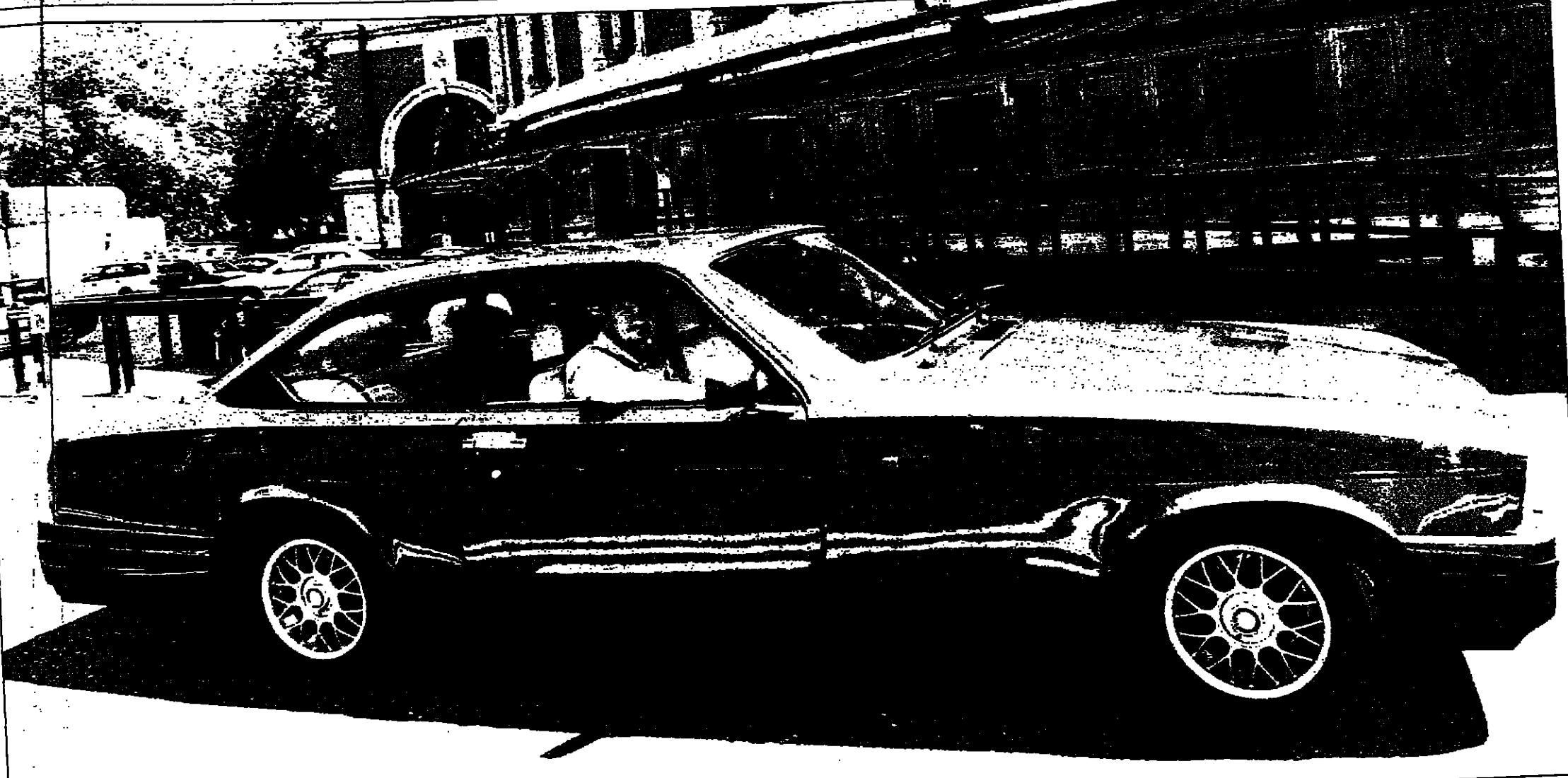
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ALLAN WELLS



Paul Smith: owner



Driver: Liam Gallagher



Fan: Richard Branson



Mr Waldegrave, too

The Blenheim 2 is the company's only current model, and while its lines are slightly dated, well-heeled customers are happy to pay a huge premium for the pleasure of owning one of the 5.9-litre V8 leviathans

Bristol fashion is a world apart

Why follow trends when the trendsetters follow you?
Britain's most cultish carmaker thrives on a unique
blend of quirkiness and culture, as Bill Thomas found

A little sign dangling from a thin piece of string in the front door of Bristol Cars showroom on Kensington High Street reads, in simple block capitals, "Open". It sums up Bristol's philosophy perfectly. It's simple, quirky, and it makes good sense.

You enter a rarefied world: though the Bristol Blenheim 2, the company's only model, looks understated and perhaps a little dated, be aware that each Bristol costs a cool £118,778.40. Still, you are buying a work of art.

Bristol Cars can be traced back to 1910, and the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company, as the Bristol Aeroplane Company, it produced thousands of aircraft in the Second World War. But after the war, surplus capacity was turned over to cars, with the first Bristol saloon appearing in 1946.

Today, the cult of Bristol is alive and well: around a hundred cars will be made this year and the order books are brimming. Happily, the company is compact and self-sufficient enough to avoid falling prey to overseas investors, though he recent sale of Rolls-Royce to Volkswagen has seen

Bristol Cars in the media spotlight as one of Britain's few surviving manufacturers.

Bristol's owner and chairman, Tony Crook, is on hand to sell every car personally. A former grand prix driver, Tony is as passionate about his cars as it is possible to be. Many of his design preferences and ideas are littered through the Blenheim, so when you buy one, you are buying a piece of Mr Crook. As he points out the car's features, his 70-odd years disappear behind the demeanour of an excited teenager.

"The car is a cross between a Bentley or Rolls-Royce and a supersports car," says Crook. "It sacrifices nothing in interior space to a Bentley yet is far more compact and manoeuvrable. It will carry four 6ft-tall people in perfect comfort, along with their luggage."

"The spare wheel is mounted here, in the wing." He opens a flap between the front wheel and front door: no other

modern car has such a feature. "This frees up space in the boot, which as you can see, is huge and unencumbered. I was photographed in there by a magazine last week."

Another rare feature of the Blenheim is its separate chassis, which is of box-section welded steel construction, with three cross-members for extra stiffness. It is immensely strong and keeps the centre of gravity low, which helps cornering ability. The aluminium body shell saves weight and is built to aerospace standards.

"There was a lot of hoo-ha just a couple of years ago about Audi's new aluminium bodies," says Crook, "but we have been doing it since 1949."

A Blenheim could never be mistaken for anything else on the road. The bonnet is the size of a small aircraft carrier, matched only in height by the car's enormous wheelbase and long rear overhang. Some consider the styling outdated and messy, but its exclusivity and

quirkiness have pedestrians swivelling their heads. It is an elegant beast, and its character grows on you.

The power is provided by a 5.9-litre Chrysler-derived V8, which rumbles effortlessly at low revs. At 70mph in top gear, the V8 is only turning at 1,700rpm. When asked to perform, the Blenheim lifts its skirts and blasts away: 60mph comes up in around six seconds, more than enough to dispatch most rivals.

"There's nothing better than a big engine doing nothing," says Tony. "They last for ever. One owner has done 400,000 miles without a problem."

Occupants are surrounded by a sea of high-quality leather and walnut veneer: British opulence at its finest. Head and legroom is generous in the front and rear, and the fittings are beautifully detailed.

Quirkiness abounds: witness the electric seat switches mounted on the transmission tunnel, the

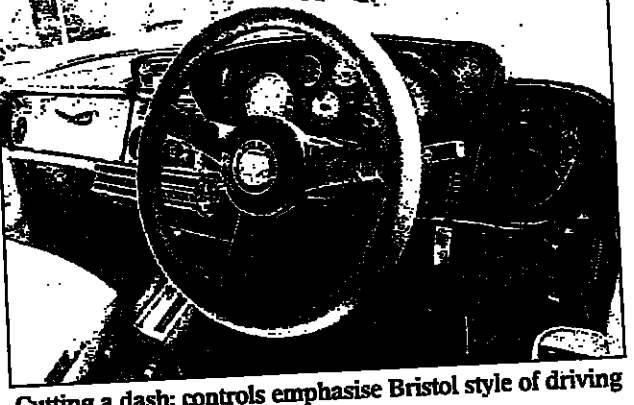
metal gear-selection knob and the stereo faceplate pod sitting proudly at eye-level. The car's cruise-control switch is marked "speed hold". One does not "cruise" in a Bristol.

On the move, the car is quiet and refined and very easy to drive. Visibility is superb in all directions, a quality Mr Crook is keen to stress, and the car has a taxi-like turning circle.

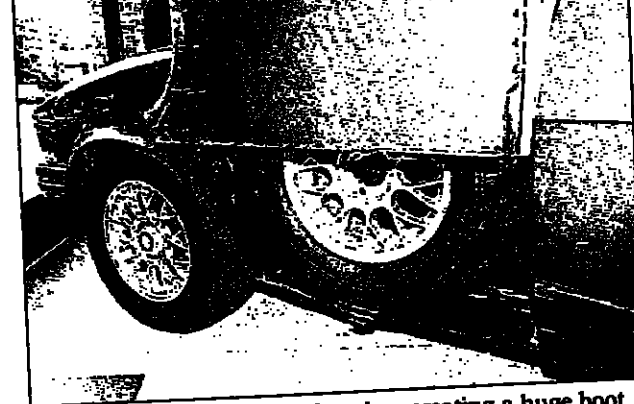
Throttle response is instant and the gearchanges are almost imperceptible. Customers can opt for even more power if they so desire, or change the suspension settings to stiffen the handling, or even add more weight to the steering feel. Most simply like it the way it is.

"We have owners from all walks of life, from retired judges to rock'n'roll stars, and they all appreciate the car's quality. It is built for excellence and safety, not to a price. They know they're buying something special," he says.

If you do have £118,778.40 to spare and you love cars and all things British, a visit to the Bristol showroom is highly recommended. Just look for the little sign that says "Open" and talk to Tony Crook. He'll sell you a car all right.



Cutting a dash: controls emphasise Bristol style of driving



Spare wheel is stored in the wing, creating a huge boot

IF YOU want to make a sound financial investment, then don't spend £118,778.40 on a Bristol. According to Brian May, who has 30 of the cars at Bristol's Bristol's in Birmingham, they're generally undervalued because they are obscure.

But people who can afford to be flippant about spending more than £100,000 on a car won't be concerned about resale value, which is why Bristol owners are a subset of the great, good and the very famous. That's just as well, because Bristol prices can fall by half in two years.

But, says May, "If you look after a Bristol for ten or 20 years, its value will hold. In fact, older cars are sometimes more valuable with higher mileage because it shows they've been cared for."

Smart moves ahead in the family tradition

Barry Sheene is his uncle, and his Dad was a tasty racer too:
Neil Spalding on Britain's latest grand prix motorbike hope

Last year at this time, Scott Smart was riding a 250 Honda in the British championships. He is now halfway through his first year in the most prestigious class in motorcycle racing.

Last year saw victory in the British 250cc championship, a debut on the world scene in the 250 British Grand Prix and in the world super-sport series riding a Ducati. Now, the 23-year-old star is the only British rider in the 500 grand prix championship.

"I was doing well in the British championship. I'd had a couple of rides in 20 grand prix and world supersport races and wanted to move up to world championship racing, preferably 250 grand prix, but nothing was coming," he says.

Then a bit of the blue came this phone call from the Irish based Marlboro team. Would I like to do the 500 Grand Prix? I had always said I wanted to get into the 500s in the end, but this was a bit of a short-cut. The team came down to Donington for the final round and, half an hour after winning the British 250 championship, I was signing to compete in 500 grand prix on a Honda NSR500 V-twin.

World motorcycle competition is divided into two major series, the production-based four-strokes of the world superbike championship,



Sheene: ex world champion

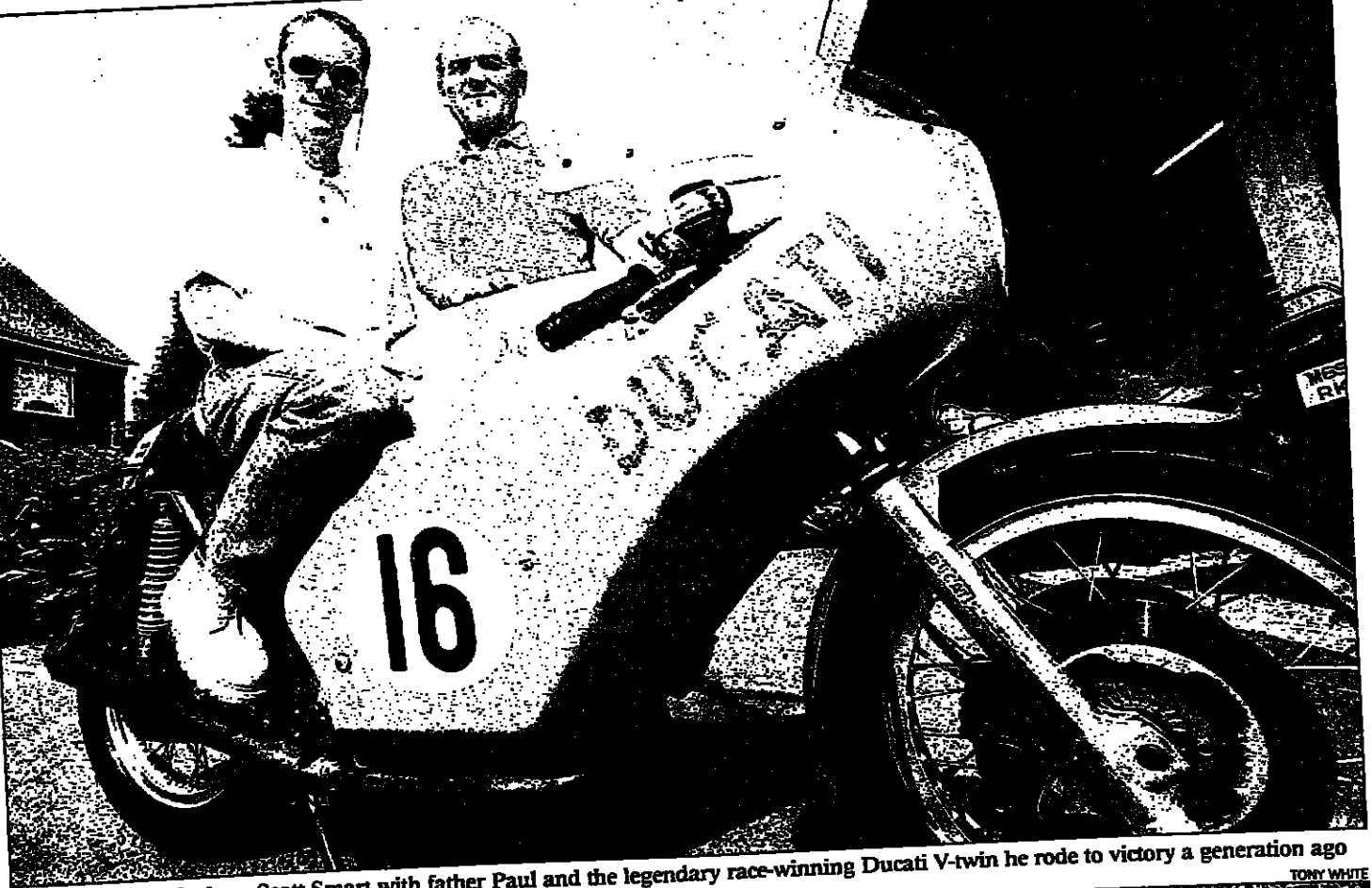
weight ratios. But the past few years have seen 500 races become predictable, with the Australian, Mick Doohan, ruling the roost. It has all changed this season: the racing has become fast and furious with up to five bikes disputing the lead for the whole race.

In the middle of the best 500 racing in years, Smart's apprenticeship is under way. "At the start of the year, I had a few difficulties with the bike's handling," he says. "It is getting more to my liking every time I ride it, but in my first test I crashed heavily. The bike took a while to fix and rather than miss the pre-race test for the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka I borrowed an old 250 from a Japanese friend.

"It wasn't the best debut, Mick Doohan overtook me on the grass after my tactics for staying out of the way went wrong, but at least I knew which way the circuit went. It is very upsetting if you go right when the circuit goes left.

"The race wasn't so good, I got in a couple of good laps then the engine locked up, the bike threw me off and I broke my collarbone. I was gutted, but I had to sit out the next race, my shoulder still hurts."

The next few races were spent trying to find the right settings for him to get the most out of the bike. "I think we are on the way now," he



Heir to the Dukedom: Scott Smart with father Paul and the legendary race-winning Ducati V-twin he rode to victory a generation ago

says. "At Jarama last weekend I had a set-up that let me feel a lot more confident, and I got my first world championship points. The next two races, Assen in Holland (today), and Donington on July 5, are on tracks where I have some experience. Obviously, with Donington being my home grand prix, the pressure will be on."

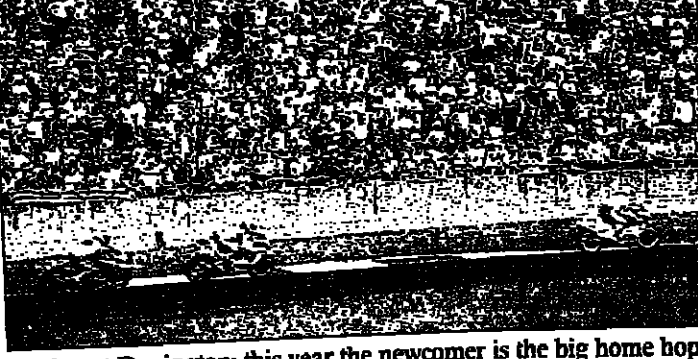
Scott will be joined on the grid for the British 500 Grand Prix by national 250 rider John McGuinness who is having a wild-card ride on another Honda NSR500.

The British Motorcycle Grand Prix at Donington takes place on July 3, 4 and 5. The main race is on

Sunday July 5 at 11.15 am. There is also a charity fundraising day for "Riders for Health" on July 2, where any member of the public can meet all the riders and teams.

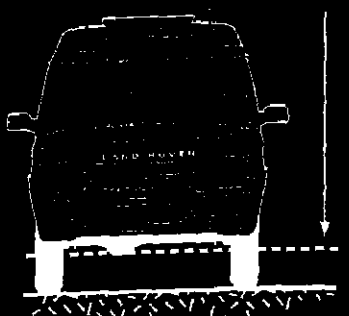
We are running a competition for five pairs of tickets to the weekend, the tickets will include the use of Scott Smart's hospitality tent on the start-finish straight on the Sunday.

Just answer this question: In what years did Barry Sheene win the World 500cc championship? Fax us on 0171-782 5125 with your answer: the tickets will go to the first five correct answers received. Normal Times rules apply.



Racing at Donington: this year the newcomer is the big home hope

FIG.1. CLEARING OBSTACLES



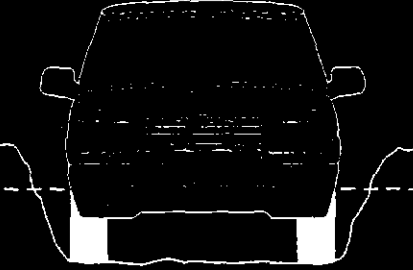
Every Assured used Land Rover has to clear a full PFI check to ensure it's not stolen, written off or on finance.

FIG.2. RAMP ANGLE



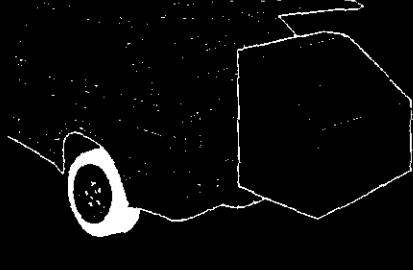
Before it's sold an Assured Land Rover has to pass a comprehensive 114 point quality check.

FIG.3. WADING DEPTH



Keep your head above water when buying an Assured used Land Rover by spreading your payments with our Freedom Finance package.

FIG.4. LOADING CAPACITY



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HANWELLS OF LONDON

SAAB
TVR WANTED
TOYOTA
SUFRA 3.0L
SUFRA 3.0L

VOLKSWAGEN
Scotts of Sloane Square

VOLKSWAGEN
Scotts of Sloane Square

REGISTRATION NUMBERS
MARKET RESEARCH

REGISTRATION NUMBERS
MARKET RESEARCH

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED
SAAB AUTHORIZED DEALERS

LEGAL & GENERAL
SUBARU
SUZUKI

VOLVO
VW

VOLKSWAGEN

PORSCHE 993 CABRIOLET
Porsche wanted

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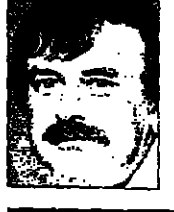
Our nation never got over rationing, and we are still mug enough to believe air conditioning is an exotic, expensive extra rather than a necessity

Carmakers keep the con in air-con

Horace Walpole had it right: "The way to ensure summer in England is to have it framed and glazed in a comfortable room." He wrote that in 1774, which suggests that appalling English summers have been around somewhat longer than Michael Fish. But the English summer is not as bad as it is painted, as I expect we shall soon see proven.

I have done a random survey of newspaper archives to see what connection there might be between hot weather and hot tempers. I claim no definitive proof, but eight of 11 reported cases of so-called road rage last year happened in warm weather. This is no more than one might have expected, but raises the question of whether the environment inside our cars is quite as wonderful as the marketing men would have us believe.

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



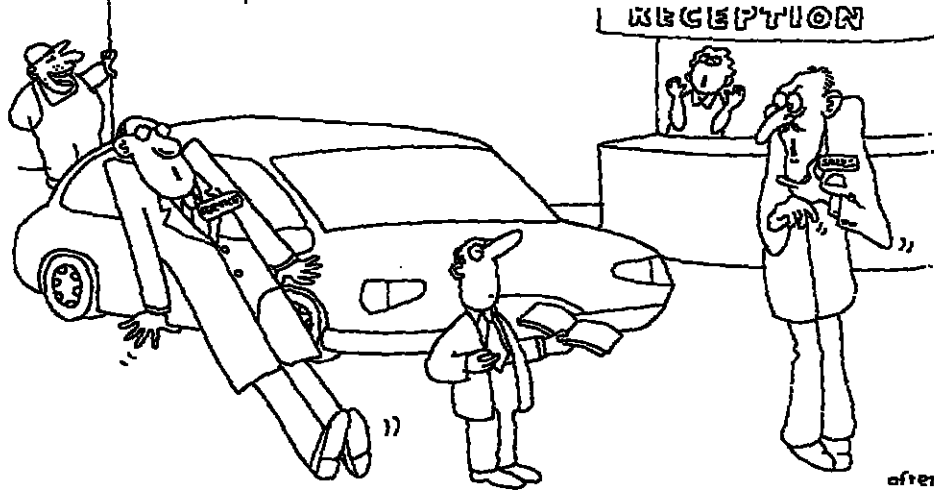
Peter Barnard

Seats may be like armchairs, fake walnut may embellish our dashboards, umpteen speakers may waft Pavarotti or the Spice Girls around our heads, so why exactly are we sitting here sweating like Olympic sprinters? Why are we stuck in a conflagration with perspiration dripping from our chins

while our foreheads feel as if they have been greased by the contents of a chip pan? Has WeightWatchers been appointed as a consultant to the car industry?

Air conditioning is at best a marketing tool at a time when it should be standard in every car on the road. In case anyone should think that the absence of air-con is something suffered only by the poor bloody infantry of motoring, I should point out that of 24 models in the Mercedes C-class range, with on-the-road prices ranging from £21,000 to £49,000, only nine have air-con as standard; the rest offer it as an optional extra costing between £1,666 and £1,725, according to *Top Gear* magazine.

And the BMW 5 series, which has 17 models costing from £24,405 to £45,595, offers 11 with standard air-con, and charges £1,825 for air-con as an extra. So we are not talk-



THE MAN WHO ASKED FOR AIR-CONDITIONING

ing here about people sweating off the pounds in a Ford Fiesta (for which air-con costs a mere £295).

The car industry has been disgracefully slow in providing such a basic comfort in all its cars. A piece of equipment that regulates the temperature of air is hardly rocket science, but drivers in Britain are encouraged to think about air-con as if it were some exotic

and unimaginable luxury. Ask a car salesman if a vehicle has air-con as standard and he will react as if you have asked if the Citroën Xsara comes complete with Claudia Schiffer (the answer is no, surprisingly enough, but 12 of the 28 Xsaras Schiffer advertises have air-con as standard equipment).

This impression that air conditioning is exotic has been cleverly

maintained by the carmakers but of course anyone who has set foot in an American car knows that this is hogwash. All American cars have air-con.

I borrowed a Cadillac from a friend when I lived in Washington: it had power steering, electric windows, cruise control and air conditioning. It was built in 1956. A mere 40 years later, British

dealers are rushing round to the printers to run up banners saying Free Air Conditioning, which they then stick in their showroom windows and await the rush, wearing the self-satisfied grin of someone who has made us an offer we could not possibly refuse.

There is even a question mark over this magnanimous gesture, for one dealer I spoke to this week said, when asked about a discount, that he could not reduce the price of the car because said price included "free" air-con. He meant that if air-con had been listed as standard on that particular model, I could have had a discount.

But because the dealer was throwing in an "optional extra" as part of the price, the discount disappeared. When I asked him if he was busy, he was honest enough to say: "No, not very." I wonder why that can be?

The motor trade's recent joy over the absurd government decision to allow two new registrations a year is hogwash. All American cars have air-con.

I borrowed a Cadillac from a friend when I lived in Washington: it had power steering, electric windows, cruise control and air conditioning. It was built in 1956. A mere 40 years later, British

Czech-mate to the rotten Skoda jokes



Worth splashing out on: new Octavia owes its quality to VW, its looks to Central Europe

Most car companies have enormous advertising budgets to give their products what they believe to be the right image. For decades, the exception to this golden rule was Skoda: its products established its image — and it was not a good one.

But now for a three-point turn. This weekend the Skoda Octavia goes on sale, and it is an excellent car. If I had once been told that I would write those words about a Skoda, I would have laughed out loud.

Skoda, now part of the Volkswagen Group, has been transformed, and the Octavia signals the start of a renaissance that I believe will eventually see the Czech company established as a quality brand.

The Octavia, priced from £11,499 to a heady £16,499, is a five-door hatchback with a good-looking, roomy body (the boot is enormous) sitting on a platform shared with the Audi A3 and the new VW Golf. There are five engine choices based on 1.6 and 1.8-litre petrol units and 1.9-litre turbodiesel. I particularly liked the £13,199

GLXi 1.6 litre with 101bhp. It is smooth, adequately quick, handles well and has a fine ride. Its gearchange quality is the best of the bunch and the driving position exceptional.

Skoda's entry-level Octavia uses a 75bhp version of this engine, but that is only for those who don't need to hurry. For those who do, there is the 125bhp 1.8-litre, which has a 125mph top speed. Diesel choice is initially limited to a 90bhp engine, but coming soon will be a fine 110bhp unit which Skoda says will whizz the Octavia to 120mph. It should average about 50mpg.

There is no need to worry about quality. The Octavia recently won the quarterly VW Group quality award, beating Audi, SEAT and VW.

But is the car really just a Czech-built VW? Skoda insists that it is not. Designer Dirk van Braeckel, a Belgian, says he has given it a distinctive identity that marks it out as Middle-European car, and certainly the forthcoming Combi estate car with its smooth curves is very different from the angular VW Passat Estate.

Van Braeckel used some design cues from Skodas of the 1930s and 1940s to create the Octavia's grille, which will form an ongoing marque identity for future models, much like the distinctive noses of Alfa-Romeo and Mercedes-Benz. Skoda's plans include a new version of the current Felicia and an upmarket saloon rumoured to have a V8 engine.

The Octavia comes in LX,



Eighties Skoda: car that launched a thousand skip jokes

GLX and SLX equipment levels. All have twin airbags, central locking, radio/cassette player, steering wheel adjustable for rake and reach, height-adjustable driver's seat — but strangely, no rear wash/wipe. The GLX gets a trip computer and split/folding rear seat, while the SLX comes with air conditioning. There is a ten-year body warranty.

All this is a long way from the traditional Skoda image and jokes like: "What do you call a convertible Skoda?" Answer: "A skip."

Forget all that. This is a new company with new products.

In fact, so radical is the change being brought about by Octavia that some traditional Skoda dealers have decided it is not for them, because it takes the company's products into a new league. They have decided to leave the franchise and have been replaced.

Octavia is already being sold in continental Europe, where demand is outstripping supply, and Skoda is rightly confident of success in Britain.

And to help to ensure its transformation, Skoda is now spending £6 million on an advertising campaign, to give its new model the "right image".

Flying chairman John is set for aerobatic fame

John Askew lay in hospital, his back broken in a riding accident, condemned to life in a wheelchair.

That was four years ago. Today the businessman has conquered a sport that requires split-second timing and co-ordination, and fills able-bodied people with awe — he is an aerobatic champion.

As he prepared to compete in another contest this weekend, Askew, 50, described the struggle from "doom and gloom when things looked fairly black" to victory in the sky.

Askew won his first aerobatic competition earlier this month when he beat 17 pilots to win the Golding Barratt trophy at the British Aerobatic Association contest at Compton Abbas airfield near Shaftesbury in Dorset. This weekend he takes part in an Irish Aerobatic Association contest at Killrush, near Dublin.

In 1994, the adventurous businessman had held a private pilot's licence, an accomplished parachutist, and was keen on horseriding. "I bought two racehorses, but one was a bit too wild for me,"

Eve-Ann Prentice meets the flyer who refused to let a terrible riding accident keep him out of the sky

he says. "It reared and fell backwards on top of me."

After accepting that he would never walk again, Askew learned to fly once more, using a specially adapted aircraft based in Liverpool. Today he flies his own Yak 52 ex-Soviet trainer and is chairman of the Delta Foxrot Club (standing for the initials of Disabled Flyers in the phonetic alphabet used by pilots).

Askew's Yak has been modified so that the rudder — crucial in aerobatics and usually manipulated by footpedals — is connected to a hand lever. "The first time I saw the Yak two years ago, I decided to buy it there and then," he says. "I didn't even have a clue how I was going to get in it, let alone fly it."

The aircraft was modified by former British aerobatic champion, Mark Jeffries, who imports and exports Yaks through his company Yak UK. "Mark took a very positive atti-

tude and the Civil Aviation Authority was brilliant in helping with the technical and medical approval I needed," he says.

Now Askew, who runs a glazing company, EG Glass, based in Huddersfield, aims to come first in the standard-level aerobatic championships this year before moving to more advanced competitions. The British Aerobatic Association runs competitions at beginners, standard, intermediate and advanced levels.

Askew also uses the Yak as his company vehicle. "We have 22 depots all over the country and the Yak is excellent at getting me to meetings fast. I also like asking staff if I can take them for a fright in it," he jokes.

Winning his first aerobatic contest "is a feeling of absolute achievement after such a big setback," he says. "You are in a different world. I don't get

frightened; you are concentrating so much and are so busy."

That said, Askew does admit to finding himself in an inadvertent inverted spin while he was being put through his paces by a CAA examiner when he was trying to win official approval to fly his Yak. "He still passed me," he says.

"Now I want to help anyone else who wants to fly and is disabled. There are about 20 flying schools in this country ready and able to take disabled people. We can also help people apply for flying scholarships sponsored by King Hussein of Jordan."

Meanwhile love is also in the air: "I had a long-term relationship that broke down after my accident," he says. "Now I have met a Frenchwoman who works for British Airways — and she is learning to fly."



John Askew with the Yak 52 former Soviet trainer he flew to victory in a British aerobatic contest this month

AN EXCLUSIVE WORLD CUP GAME THE TIMES

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PLUS 10 VAUXHALL CARS AND WORLD CUP TICKETS TO BE WON

Courtesy of Vauxhall

ITV Prize winners: Week 2 Sandra Hart, Washington, Tyne & Wear, wins a Corsa Breeze and £715; Geoff Messett, Staines, and Philip Greenwood, Banstead, Surrey, each win world cup tickets and £715. George Farnham, London E13, Keith Steward, Wirral, Patricia Sharp, Wrexham and Graham Eadie, Manchester each win £715.

This week there is a total of £10,000 cash, two Corsa Breezes, one prize of a trip for two to each of the semi-finals and two prizes of pairs of tickets to the World Cup Final to be won. Ticket prizes include travel and accommodation from London.

• If you do not have a gamecard, request one by calling 0171-481 3355

HOW TO PLAY THE TIMES GAME

START PLAYING THE WEEK 3 GAME NOW

The final set of names for The Times Week 3 Team Check game on your card appear below. If any of these names match those on your Week 3 Times game panel scratch them off. DO NOT scratch off any names that do not appear on your gamecard will be void. You will reveal a symbol: a football, a whistle, a boot, a cup, a linesman's flag or a footballer. If you have revealed three matching symbols today you have won a share of this Week's Times/Sunday Times £5,000 prize and must make a claim on the Team Check hotline 0183-501 1240 before 3pm today

PLATINI 16
SOCRATES 21

MORE PLAYERS' NAMES FOR THE TIMES WEEK 3 GAME WILL BE PRINTED TOMORROW

YOU CAN ALSO PLAY TEAM CHECK IN THE SUNDAY TIMES

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HOW TO PLAY THE ITV GAME WITH VAUXHALL

TUNE IN TO ITV THIS AFTERNOON

Tune in to **WORLD CUP SPECIAL** on ITV this afternoon between 1.30pm and 2pm and into today's match which will be televised live on ITV at either 3.30pm or 8pm, plus **HIGHLIGHTS** from 10.25pm to 11.25pm for your Team Check numbers for the ITV/Vauxhall Week 3 game on your card. At the beginning and the end of the commercial breaks in these programmes you will see Vauxhall sponsorship clips. **DURING EACH CLIP A WHITE TEAM CHECK NUMBER WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED IN THE TOP LEFT-HAND CORNER OF THE SCREEN.** If any of the highlighted numbers match a number on the silver football shirts on the Week 3 ITV/Vauxhall game on your card, scratch them off. **DO NOT scratch off any numbers that do not appear on your gamecard will be void.** You will reveal a symbol. If you reveal three identical symbols you have won a share of this week's ITV/Vauxhall £5,000 Team Check prize and must call the claims line between 9.30am and 3pm on Monday.

MORE NUMBERS FOR THE ITV/VAUXHALL WEEK 4 GAME WILL BE BROADCAST ON MONDAY

MORE VAUXHALL TEAM CHECK NUMBERS WILL BE BROADCAST ON MONDAY

UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

Advertisement for Hargreaves Lansdown. Text: 'Up to £1,000 Cash Rebate on a £150 per month Pension'. Includes details about pension contributions and rebates.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page. Features the text 'Prep G CO' and 'With there g'. Includes a small image of a person's face at the top.



COVER 56

Shop around to cut cost of insurance

WEEKEND MONEY

SOCIETIES 63

Nationwide turns the mutual screw



Prepare for when Grim Reaper comes to call

Contemplating death may have been Hamlet, Prince of Denmark's abiding obsession, but it is a prospect to which the rest of us devote little time.

This explains why term assurance, a form of insurance that pays out a specific sum on the event of your death, is sold rather than bought and why so few people have sufficient cover. Only when people are making important life decisions — buying a house, making a will, getting married — do they give the subject much thought.

Pure term assurance does not involve any element of investment — it simply provides a lump sum to pay off debts, often a mortgage, or other expenses. Most mortgage lenders insist you take it out when you arrange a home loan, even if you are living alone and have no family. It is essential if you do have dependants (including your spouse), as they may be unable to continue with mortgage payments or bringing up the family after your death.

Competitive term assurance is available from Standard Life, Scottish Widows and General Accident, according to Ian Millward, investment marketing director of Chase de Vere Investments, the independent financial adviser. He said that because it is a pure insurance product, people should shop around and buy on price. "Premiums can vary widely and it is a good idea to obtain several quotes. If you have dependants you should also think about taking out cover for

Marianne Curphey looks at term assurance as a way for your family to clear debts when you die

loss of your salary contribution to the household if you die, on top of any mortgage costs that will need to be met."

It can be difficult to calculate how much term insurance you need and Chase de Vere offers a rough but conservative rule of thumb. Mr Millward calculates that you need insurance that will pay out ten times your gross annual salary. If you are in full-time employment and are a member of an occupational pension scheme you probably qualify for death-in-service benefit of three or four times your salary. You can then subtract the amount your estate will receive from your employer from the total sum you need to insure.

People tend to think of term insurance as "wasted" money, since there is no investment element involved and the premium, once paid, earns nothing. However, Mr Millward says there is no alternative to buying term assurance, since it would take many years to build up a lump sum of £60,000 — equivalent to the average mortgage debt in the UK.

He said: "If you earn £10,000 a year you will need cover which pays out a lump sum of £100,000. Then your dependants can take 10 per cent of the fund a year — equivalent to the lost salary. You would hope that the remaining capital would be invested in equities

and would grow each year to replace the lost capital."

The lump sum is tax-free, although if you have property or assets worth more than the inheritance tax threshold of £223,000, the term assurance payout may be liable to IHT tax at the flat rate of 40 per cent. To avoid being caught out by this, Mr Millward recommends writing the term assurance into a trust at the same time as you buy it. This can be done simply, but you may need to ask for it yourself as not all advisers may remember to check up.

Putting the lump sum in the bank or building society is "probably the worst thing you could do with it", according to Mr Millward. "Your dependants would need to take advice on suitable investments so that the fund grew each year to support them."

If you are single and have no plans to get married, and do not own a home, then term assurance is unnecessary. The only advantage to taking it out at this stage is that you are likely to be in good health and the premiums will be cheaper. If you are older and have had a serious illness you may find it more difficult to obtain cover. Likewise, if you are retired, have paid off the mortgage and do not have debt outstanding, you do not need it.

In addition, if you are able to put down a large deposit on your house the mortgage lender may not require you to take out term assurance.

A cheaper option is to buy a joint-lives policy, which pays out either when the first or the second member of a couple dies. Having a "second death" policy is cheaper, but it does mean that the policy will pay out only when both halves of the couple have died. If one dies first, the remaining spouse will not receive any payout.

Insurance companies also sell "whole-of-life policies", which combine the concept of term assurance with an investment element. A proportion of the monthly premium goes towards the insurance cover and the rest is invested. These type of policies are designed to pay you a lump sum towards the end of your life. They are more expensive than simple term assurance. Mr Millward said: "My advice is to keep the two things separate. If you want an investment product buy one, but do not link it to term assurance."

Mr Millward says that based on a 20-year term with £200,000 life cover, the premium for a male aged 21 from Scottish Widows would be £14 per month. For a male aged 32, Legal & General would charge £21.70, while for a female aged 30 the premium would be £12.98 from Eurolife.

These quotations are on a single-life basis. A male aged 45 would pay £69.37 per month premium with Zurich Life and a female aged 40 would pay £27.50 per month with Legal & General.



Divina McCall, *The Drop Dead Show* presenter, will raise questions of life and death

Death, where is thy sting?

Quiz shows rarely touch on anything more serious than sporting feats or spelling. But next week Channel 4 will be attempting to broaden the format, forcing us all to contemplate our mortality.

The *Drop Dead Show*, which will be screened on Thursday, will act as a better reminder of the need of life insurance than the admonitions of a dozen salesmen. Its fearsome conclusions may also inspire those who have previously failed to kick the smoking habit to turn their backs on low tar and benefit from lower insurance premiums.

The questions posed will attempt to determine how long members of the audience will live, based on occupation, current state of health, family history and diet. Viewers will also be able work out their own moral span. Research conducted for the show will illustrate how certain environmental factors, such as where you live, and others affect longevity.

ANNE ASHWORTH

What types of policy are sold

Insurance companies use various technical terms to describe life insurance policies. These terms include:

Endowment policies: There are two types of policies available, with-profits or unit-linked. Endowment policies are designed to run for a specified length of time, usually ten, 15 or 25 years, during which you pay regular premiums. During this time your investment grows and a proportion is encashed each year to pay for life cover. You decide how much cover you need, known as the sum assured.

If performance is good, the investment will give you a large lump sum and provide life cover in the interim period. Justin Modray, of Chase de Vere, said: "The drawback of endowments is that they do not guarantee to pay out the projected sum unless you die." With-profits means that your premiums are invested in fixed-interest products and equities and, as they grow, the company's actuary calculates how much of the investment return can be paid out each year in bonuses, and how much you will receive as a final bonus when the policy matures.

Unit-linked policies are more closely tied to the performance of the stock market as the value of the policy depends on the price of each unit.

Whole-of-life policies: These combine life cover and investment returns and are designed to run for the whole of your life.

The payout is guaranteed when you die and these policies are often used to meet the expected cost of inheritance tax bills.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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Susan Emmett suggests shopping around for cheaper home loans and insurance cover

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Cut mortgage misery with a fixed rate

Homeowners faced with an increase in mortgage payments in the wake of the rise in variable rate loans could cut their bills by moving to cheaper deals.

Many of the largest lenders, including the Halifax, Northern Rock, Abbey National and Alliance & Leicester, put up their rates in response to the unexpected rise in base rates this month. Only a number of building societies, including the two largest, Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley, have promised to keep their rates the same until August.

For borrowers with a £50,000 mortgage, the increase in many lenders' rates to 8.95 per cent has added £17 a month to their bill. Since the election in May last year, their repayment has increased by about £60 a month.

But mortgage misery is not inevitable. Remortgaging might be pricey, with lenders' arrangement and valuation fees as well as legal fees adding up to £1,000, but provided the upfront costs can be met, homeowners can save in the long term by transferring to some of the competitive fixed, discounted or capped products.

Philip Cartwright, director of London & Country Mortgages,

the broker, said: "If you are on a standard variable rate and sure there is no penalty from the lender, you should consider looking at other options. However, you should consider carefully if your mortgage is under £30,000, as the fees could be up to 3 per cent of your mortgage. If your mortgage is over that, you can make good savings by remortgaging."

Walter Avrili, operations director at John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said: "People are going fixed rather than anything else. Fixed rates give the security people are looking for; many did not expect the rate rise that we have seen."

Mr Avrili also said borrowers were opting for longer fixes. "Three-year fixes are not as popular as five years."

John Charcol has a deal through the Woolwich with a five-year fix at 6.35 per cent, or 6.95 per cent with a 3 per cent cashback. Neither option has any redemption charges beyond the fixed period and borrowers with a £60,000 mortgage currently on a variable rate would be saving £130 a month with the lower rate.

For those looking for greater flexibility, Mr Avrili points to

the two-year fix at 6.49 per cent offered by the Portman Building Society. The deal carries no redemption penalties, so borrowers can leave when they like. Mr Avrili said: "If interest rates plummet, you can move out immediately so you get the best of both worlds."

Borrowers looking for a lender that will pay all their remortgaging costs should consider the National Counties. It offers a 1.7 per cent discount off its 8.29 per cent variable rate for two years. But borrowers face redemption penalties for a year after the discount has ended.

Halifax offers a four-year mortgage capped at 6.8 per cent, which Mr Cartwright says is attractive if you think rates will come down in the longer term. Redemption charges apply for the life of the fix, there are no arrangement fees and the lender will contribute £300 towards legal costs. The product is not available to existing Halifax borrowers unless they are moving home.

If low rates are a priority, Mr Cartwright recommends the Principality's three-year fix at 5.4 per cent. Redemption penalties apply for two years after the fix and at six months' interest, charges are hefty.



Alison Jefferies was paying twice for her insurance

Change saved £20 a month

Alison Jefferies saved £20 a month by moving her home insurance from the Halifax First Direct. Ms Jefferies, 30, a student, did not even realise she was paying for building insurance as the bill was wrapped up with her monthly mortgage payments.

It was only when she fell behind with payments this year that she found out the Halifax had been charging her £30 a month for building insurance. She had even taken out separate cover and so was paying twice over.

Ms Jefferies, a former taxi driver and divorced mother of two who is studying to become a social worker, had been paying the lender for insurance since she first took out a variable rate mortgage for her three-bedroom semi-detached home in north Bristol eight years ago. But as soon as she found she could pay less elsewhere, she moved to Direct Line.

Ms Jefferies said: "I didn't realise how much cheaper it could be. When I found out that I could save £20 a month, I couldn't believe it."

She said that despite charging £10 a month, Direct Line offered far more extensive cover. "There must be hundreds of people in this situation. I can't understand why lenders charge so much."

Swings and roundabouts with premiums

After hunting for a house and snuffing out the best mortgage deal, the last thing most people want to do is shop around for home insurance. Many lenders will offer building and contents insurance as part of a cheaper mortgage package. Premiums are usually wrapped in with mortgage payments, so you might not even notice you are paying for cover.

Whether it is worth paying extra for insurance in exchange for a more competitive mortgage depends entirely on the rate, the size of the loan and the type of cover you choose. It can be a finely judged decision that requires

patience and a good calculator. Philip Watson, director of John Charcol, the insurance broker, said that lender policies can be 30 per cent dearer. "We know people don't generally save money on that," he said. "Over a three to four-year period it is cheaper to pay the higher interest rate and arrange your own insurance." Mr Watson said that the savings were greater if the property was at the upper end of the market and higher levels of contents insurance were required.

However, despite charging more for insurance, many lenders are offering attractive deals that are worth considering. Nationwide Building Society

gives a 1 per cent discount on a range of products. Northern Rock reduces the rate by 0.35 per cent and Bradford & Bingley by 0.25 per cent. Nationwide would insure a young family living in a three-bedroom semi-detached house in Swindon for £153 a year, while Direct Line would charge £125.84 and Lombard £126.88.

However, despite saving more than £25 on insurance a year by going elsewhere, the family would still be better off with the Nationwide's discount on a two-year fix deal. The building society charges 6.19 per cent for those who do not take out its insurance, but the rate drops to 5.19

per cent for those who do. The difference is a yearly saving of £573.24.

The same applies to a family with a £200,000 mortgage living in West London. Nationwide offers basic cover for £625.44, while Zurich would charge £515.84. However, with a saving of nearly £2,000 a year at the lower mortgage rate, the family would be better off opting for the lender's deal.

The Nationwide said the advantages of taking out insurance with the lender depends on each individual case and that its products were designed to give borrowers the choice of taking independent cover.

Bradford & Bingley, another mutu-

al, would charge the Swindon family even higher premiums for basic insurance at £159.25, or £30 more than Direct Line. However, by sticking with the lender's insurance and getting the 0.25 discount off the mortgage rate, these borrowers would have been nearly £100 a year better off with the five-year fixed mortgage deal at 6.19 per cent.

Lenders have been criticised for making a huge mark-up in commission when you take out their cover and charging an extra £25 when you do not. Nationwide is an exception, having abolished the £25 fee along with many others at the start of the month.

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On the wrong track

So far so good. The FTSE 100 index appears to have survived another little tremor. The old saw of selling in May has been reinforced without much damage. There are livelier things going on in the stock market. Some shares have risen by a third. As more investors track an index rather than backing their judgment on individual companies, however, the average becomes ever more significant.

Backing an index no longer eases your worries. The longer the bull market goes on, the more jittery about some 1987-style collapse. These fears have been revived by the indiscriminate Asian crash. One or two investment houses still bank on a nasty setback to justify their cautious stance. Their embarrassment, to date, has merely bolstered fans of index tracking.

Investment psychology now encourages sudden breaks in share prices. Marketing equities becomes more tricky without the expectation of a general uptrend in share prices. What better proof than the weight of money coming into equities. Follow the crowd and you cannot be wrong, the theory

behind all asset bubbles. Sure, there will be nervous setbacks, too unpredictable for most investors to avoid, but then you can dust yourself down and buy all over again. Bonds lack this marketing appeal, even in a low-inflation economy. Lacking an inevitable trend, the returns look boring.

The possibility remains that equity returns could be low for quite a while, even if disguised by exciting ups and downs. Take a look at profits. In the latest Merrill Lynch survey, taken four weeks ago, fund managers expected earnings and dividends to rise by just 6.4 per cent on average this year and about the same in 1999. The next year, in a couple of weeks, may be worse. Yet FTSE 100 shares are rated at an average 22 times earnings against 17 times a year ago, when profit growth was sharper and the economy seemed likely to grow faster this year and next than forecasters now project.

Share prices are as much about short and long-term interest rates as profit growth. Long-term rates have indeed fallen strongly in the expectation of sterling being merged with the euro. But hang on, inflation and base rates are back on the up.

Plenty of money is still to be made in London on individual stocks but the index relies on its close relationship with Wall Street. In the first quarter, fund managers bet heavily on the real euroland over the Channel. US investors are expected to push pots of money into euro zone investments in the coming months. For a while, at least, if you want to back an index, that might be a better place to look.

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Personal equity plans continue to offer good growth, says Helen Pridham

Plenty of life in the old Peps yet

If you are wondering whether personal equity plans are still worth bothering about as their final curtain approaches, it is worth bearing in mind that the main advantage of putting your money into a Pep rather than a building society account is the prospect that your capital will grow.

Naturally, there is a risk that you could lose money if stock markets collapse, but historically over the long term capital values have increased.

What is more, any capital growth in a Pep is tax-free and this will continue to be so in future when individual savings accounts (Isas) are introduced. Although most people rarely pay tax on their capital gains,

thanks to the annual CGT allowance of £6,800, the benefit of Peps is that they do not have to be declared to the taxman. Another advantage is that they can provide a cheaper way into some investments, such as unit trusts, than buying direct.

They also help to focus your mind on choosing an investment that is likely to grow. Indeed, any investor who had been far-sighted enough five years ago to invest the maximum in what is now the top performing unit trust Pep, Invesco European Growth, would be sitting on gains considerably in excess of the annual CGT allowance.

Investors who want capital growth will rarely be disappointed if they opt for a share-based Pep and are prepared to invest for the long term. Only twice in the past 20 years has the UK stock market fallen over a calendar year, and only seven times has a building society account returned more than the stock market, according to Datastream/ICV.

The difference in cumulative returns is even starker - £100 invested in a building society 20 years ago would now be worth £700, while in the stock market it would have grown to more than £3,100.

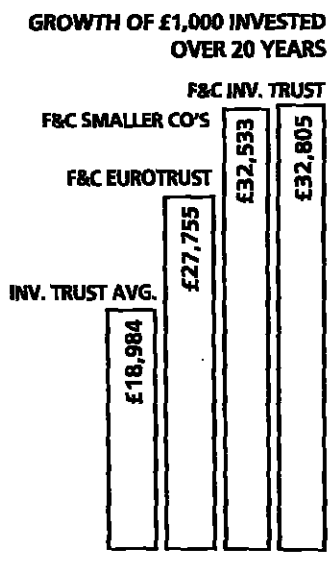
That is the general picture. Naturally, individual Peps grow at different rates and involve different amounts of risk. At the top end of the risk spectrum is a single share Pep. This may produce a high rate of growth when a company is doing well, but if it falters the share price may tumble. Even if this does not happen, choosing the right time to sell is never easy. That is why most investors prefer a managed fund - a unit or investment trust - where a professional fund manager decides when to buy and sell your shares.

This still leaves you with a tremendous range of choice of different types of funds and different managers with a variety of track records. If you want to play it safe in your choice of managers you could opt for a UK index tracker unit trust, such as that offered by Virgin Direct, or at slightly lower cost by Legal & General. These funds hold shares in all of the UK's largest companies and a cross-section of medium and smaller businesses that comprise the FT all-share index. The advantage of opting for one of these trusts is that you will not end up with a fund that underperforms the index. However, if you prefer back-



Reap the harvest: long-term investors in Peps will rarely be disappointed with the returns

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Johnson Fry Slater Growth and Gartmore UK Smaller Companies unit trusts.

"On the European side, although markets have done very well recently, there is still more to go for - providing there are no major hiccups with EMU. We favour Invesco European Growth and Gartmore European Selected Opportunities."

Other advisers suggest the packaged Pep approach. Hayden Green of The Pep Shop in Nottingham, says: "We like Peps where investments are split between a number of funds so that investors get a balanced portfolio. One in particular is Fidelity's Triple Performance Pep, which involves three unit trusts. Investments are divided 50 per cent UK Special Situations, 25 per cent Europe and 25 per cent either South-East Asia or Global Pri-

vatation." Pascal Matic, of Unitas, an IFA based in Southampton, is also a fan of the Fidelity approach and points out that an extra attraction for those who are concerned about unsettled stock markets is that Fidelity offers a phased investment programme. This means that it will transfer your investment into its Pep in equal tranches over a six-month period. Jupiter, Gartmore and Schroder also offer packaged Pep plans.

Opinions are divided about whether Pep investors should be putting any money into Far Eastern markets at present. Under Pep rules, up to £1,500 of your annual general Pep allowance can be invested in funds that specialise in the area. Pascal Matic argues: "With so much doom and gloom about, it is probably quite a good time to invest in the Far East. Markets seem to have just about reached rock bottom."

However, Mr Churm believes there could be more bad news to come. "Unless you are very brave, I think it is better to wait and see for another six to 12 months," he says.

ing a fund that has outperformed the index in the past. Lucinda Hines, investment research manager at Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, the independent financial adviser (IFA), recommends Fidelity UK Growth.

But, she points out: "Often when we look at what investment managers already have, such as other Peps and privatisation shares, we find they are overweight in the UK. Here we would recommend an international growth Pep, such as Perpetual Pep Growth or Fidelity International Pep."

Many financial advisers, though, advocate more focused funds for Pep investors who are looking for growth. John Churm, technical support manager at Torquil Clark, the IFA based in Wolverhampton, speaks for many: "The two areas we believe currently offer most growth potential are UK smaller and medium-sized companies and Europe. UK blue chips had a good run last year, but the signs are that smaller companies are now picking up steam. The funds we like for this area are the

Cat prompts boycott threat by funds

Fund managers are threatening to boycott the Government's proposals to benchmark individual savings accounts amid fears that the new product could spark a mis-selling scandal in the event of a stock market crash.

The Government is planning to introduce a Cat (cost, access, terms) standard to indicate which Isas are good value for money in order to encourage as many savers as possible into the new account.

However, while the benchmark proposal has been broadly welcomed in relation to Isas that hold cash or insurance policies, it is proving controversial for equity Isas which are intended to replace Peps.

Fund managers, City watchdogs and consumer experts fear that inexperienced savers will inevitably assume the Cat

standard is a government endorsement of how their stock market savings will perform.

Although over the long term the stock market does produce the best returns for savers, it can be volatile over short periods. To make matters worse the Government plans to restrict the equity benchmark to low-cost funds that simply track the UK stock market. Fund managers are concerned that, with the FTSE all-share index at an all-time high after six years of growth, a correction is imminent. They are worried that novice savers will take fright when they lose money and will never invest again.

Marc Sylvain, managing director of Fidelity Investments UK, said: "If new and inexperienced savers put all their money in equity funds there will be a new

mis-selling scandal to rival the one over personal pensions."

Fidelity has suggested that the Treasury could avoid much of the political risk by introducing a system that would grade Isas as to whether they were low, medium or high-risk.

Philip Warland, director-general of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, said there were "voices in the investment industry calling for a moratorium" if the Government did not back down. He wants the Cat standard to embrace a wider range of funds and dispense with the low-cost criteria which will preclude people seeking independent financial advice and finding suitable investments.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

*Source: Micropal, offer to bid, income taken, for period 1/7/1985 to 1/5/98 (equivalent 5 year figure +86%, 1/5/93 to 1/5/98). **Source: Micropal, all figures offer to bid, gross income reinvested, for periods ending 1/5/98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them is not guaranteed and can fall as well as rise. The Equity Income Trust has been available as a PEP since May 1993. Full written terms and conditions are available on request. For your security, all calls are recorded. Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England, no 2170242, is a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. Registered Office 1 Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business, and by IMRO.



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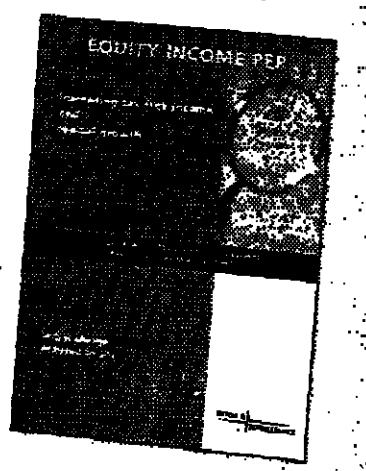
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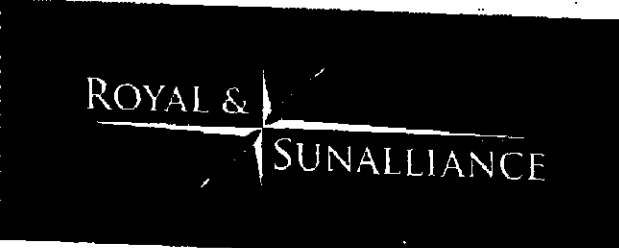
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THE TIMES

Be

Shares have been shaken not stirred, brokers tell

Clare Stewart

Rates h to mo incom

Be ready for a bumpy ride

Shares have been shaken not stirred, brokers tell
Clare Stewart

In April the UK stock market was setting new records, cruising towards 6,200 having made impressive progress from January levels, just above 5,000.

Currently the FTSE 100, the index of leading companies, is in a rather more nervous mood, having retreated to below 5,900.

Where next? With a barrage of international and domestic factors to digest, in the short term the direction of the market is somewhat uncertain. "It is going to be pretty difficult. If it goes sideways it will be doing well," comments Kevin Darlington, head of strategy and economics at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broking and finance group.

"There is little for markets to get enthusiastic about," he adds. "We expect to see choppy conditions, with the market lacking direction." The struggling economies of Japan and the Far East have dominated the headlines in the past few weeks, as the yen has come under renewed pressure, and concerns about global recession increased.

At home, the rise in interest rates and fears of a further rise, in response to higher inflation figures, have also rattled investor confidence. In addition, sterling's resurgence against the mark has further added to the problems of exporters.

Despite the negative influence of recent events, views



The cocktail of shares has been shaken by the Asian turmoil and rising rates

from brokers and equity market commentators suggest the stock market in the short term is more shaken than stirred. "We've had a good run and there are still international uncertainties in the Far East and to a lesser extent in Russia. Equally, US markets are highly valued," says Richard Hughes, vice-chairman of M&G Investment Management.

But he looks to the improving story from Europe, which has a greater impact on UK companies than the Far East. "With sterling strong and a further rise in interest rates possible, it is likely to be a tricky few months, but we still expect a soft landing."

Among blue chip stocks, he favours utilities, food com-

panies and retailers. "There is also good value in small and medium-sized companies, which are not as vulnerable as some of the highly valued blue chips," Mr Hughes adds.

This year was forecast to be one for the small and medium-sized companies, which had largely missed out on the

strong stock market rises seen last year, led by the big banks, oil and pharmaceutical groups. Such predictions have been borne out by the performance of the FTSE Small Cap and FTSE 250 indices. Having tracked the upward rise of the FTSE 100 up until April, over the past two months both have

comfortably outperformed the top 100 companies.

"The economic case for smaller companies looks questionable after the recent rises in interest rates and the rate of inflation," says Steve Liechti, small companies analyst at Merrill Lynch.

"But we think that strategically, small and mid cap companies have more value than bigger stocks."

In the medium term, assuming sterling retreats from its current levels, Merrill Lynch remains positive on smaller manufacturing companies, particularly given their greater exposure to the rising European markets.

Growth companies are the one to focus on and Mr Liechti highlights opportunities in sectors such as information technology and services, while among consumer industries, he points to the strengths of a number of brewery and restaurant chains rolling out successful outlets across the country.

The individual attractions of certain specialist retailers such as SCS Upholstery and Country Gardens are also worth noting.

While equity market analysts are not rushing to adjust their year-end forecasts, it is clear that the combination of international and domestic factors, together with the typically slower stock market during the summer, could mean a bumpy ride for several months.

Rates hold key to monthly income fund

Credit Suisse Asset Management, which manages about £75 billion worth of cash, has launched a corporate bond monthly income fund.

You can put a personal equity plan (PEP) wrapper around the fund, sheltering your investment from tax.

Fay Watson, the fund manager, plans to put about 85 per cent of the portfolio into UK corporate bonds and the rest into overseas bonds. Bonds are stocks paying a fixed rate of interest issued by companies to raise money.

She will concentrate on high-quality bonds, but will also buy a small percentage of lower-quality bonds, with a higher risk, but with correspondingly higher yields in return.

Ms Watson intends to generate a minimum income level of 6 per cent, but this is not guaranteed. If she achieves the minimum target, PEP investors who put up the full £6,000 allowance will receive £30 a month tax-free, which comes to a total of £360 per year. If she achieves a 6.5 per cent return for investors, they will receive £32.50 income per month, which comes to a yearly total of £390 free of tax.

Ms Watson's model portfolio includes large financial groups, such as NatWest (7.5 per cent), Barclays (4.75 per cent), Midland Bank (4.75 per cent), Royal Bank (4.75 per cent) and Credit Suisse (3.5 per cent). It also has sizeable exposure to other sectors with companies such as Cable & Wireless (4.5 per cent), Carlton (4.5 per cent), British Steel (4.5 per cent) and Lasso (5 per cent).

The model portfolio includes some riskier holdings that offer higher than average yields to help to boost overall



performance. One example is South African Government sterling debt. Ms Watson is satisfied that the South Africans will be able to repay these bonds, though it has a low investment grade from Moody's, the ratings agency. South Africa accounts for 3.75 per cent of the model portfolio, while the other bond that could add spice to the fund is a 2.5 per cent exposure to sterling bonds issued by the National Bank of Hungary.

Ms Watson predicts that UK base rates will fall to between 6.75 and 7 per cent over the next 12 months and then decline to between 6 and 6.5 per cent the following year.

Her outlook for interest rates is the key to this fund. She plans to structure the portfolio to capture the movements and has carefully formulated an outlook not only on the UK, but for the rest of Europe where short-term interest rates are more likely to increase modestly.

The Asian crisis dominates her global view at present because it is affecting most other financial markets and she intends to steer clear of this region.

Fund details: Minimum investment - £1,000; initial charge - 5.25 per cent annual charge - 1.2 per cent.

Score: ★★
Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

KAREN WOOLFSON

The leaders in long-term performance have a list of leading awards



Management Group	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	9yrs	10yrs
JUPITER	11	4	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	1
Fidelity	73	75	36	53	28	10	22	54	28	11
M&G	19	46	72	49	36	36	31	31	40	36
Mercury	87	95	80	63	60	44	41	39	34	28
Perpetual	103	82	69	62	37	9	14	11	7	5
Schroder	128	122	113	105	101	57	68	74	41	46

Extracts from Investment Intelligence - Group Weighted Performance Tables of all unit trust management groups: offer to bid, net income reinvested, cumulative to 1.8.98.

Jupiter's unit trusts are concentrated in the UK and Europe where the majority of PEP investment must be made - with little exposure to volatile Far Eastern and other overseas markets.

Over the past five years Jupiter companies have won over 70 awards; some of the major ones are shown below.

- 1998
 - Best Overall Unit Trust Company - Money Management
 - UK & Europe Fund Manager of the Year - Money Management
 - Funds For The Future (UK, Europe) - Moneywise
 - Funds For The Future (IT, International Capital Growth) - Moneywise
 - Gold Investment Provider - FA Provider of the Year Awards
- 1997
 - Best 10 year Group Weighted Performance - Investment Intelligence
 - Best Risk Reward Fund - European - What PEP
 - 5 Year Best Unit Trust Manager (Smaller Group) - Standard & Poor's Microcap
 - Best International Capital Growth Investment Trust, 5 Years (Jupiter Primadonna Growth) - Standard & Poor's Microcap
 - 1 Year Best Far East ex Japan Investment Trust (Taiwan Investment) - Standard & Poor's Microcap
- 1996
 - Small Unit Trust Group of the Year - Investment Adviser
 - Large Investment Trust Group of the Year - Investment Adviser
 - Best Overall Trust - Primadonna - Investment Trusts
 - UK and Europe Fund Manager of the Year - Money Management
 - Fund Management Group of the Year (1st) - What Investment
 - Best Provider - Unit Trust Fund - Savings Market / Investment Intelligence
 - 1 Year UK Unit Trust Europe Sector (1st) - Income - Microcap
 - 1 Year UK Unit Trust UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - Microcap
 - 5 Year UK Unit Trust UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - Microcap
 - 4 Star Investment Trust Company - Financial Adviser / FAA Service Awards
 - Five Star Unit Trust Company - Financial Adviser / FAA Service Awards
- 1995
 - Best UK Growth Unit Trust - Investment Adviser
 - UK and Europe Fund Manager of the Year - Money Management
 - Best UK Equity Income Unit Trust - Investment Adviser
 - Best UK Unit Trust - Money Management
 - Best UK Equity Trust - UK Growth - Money Observer
 - Best UK Equity Income Trust - Income - Money Observer
 - 1 Year UK Unit Trusts UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - Microcap
 - 5 Years UK Unit Trusts UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - Microcap
 - 1 Year UK Unit Trusts UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - UK Growth - Microcap

However it is performance that is of real interest to investors. As you can see from the table opposite, Jupiter stands out above all the leading groups listed.

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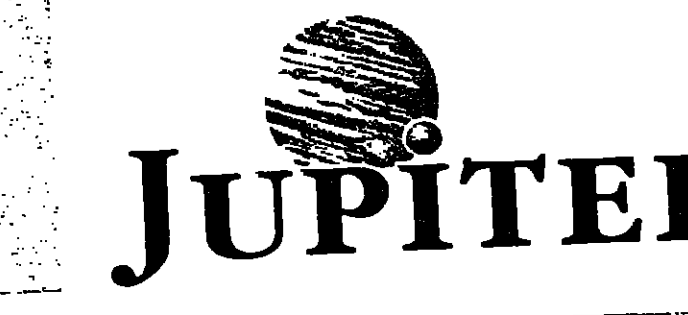
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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Abbey lifts rate on savings accounts

Abbey National is increasing its savings account rates with effect from July 1. The new rate on an Investor 90 account with the minimum balance of £2,000 is 5.9 per cent gross, an increase of 0.25 percentage points.

apply for a loan or travel insurance. To register for the service, call 0800 000977. If you die without making a will, your wealth could go to the person you least want to have it, perhaps to the Inland Revenue, Wills and Probate.

Woolwich has also raised its rates for savers. From Monday, Premier Instant account-holders with a balance of between £1 and £499 will receive a 0.5 points increase, up from 4 per cent to 4.5 per cent gross per annum.

A new guide to individual savings accounts has been produced by IFA promotion, the organisation that promotes independent financial advice. The booklet explains how much you can invest: what the cash, life assurance and investment elements of Isas are: what the tax advantages are and how long Isas will be available.

The latest addition to Barclays Online Banking was launched this week. The Internet Banking Service will enable customers who have Internet access to check balances on their current, loan and deposit accounts; view transaction records; transfer funds between accounts and

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Account, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Instant Access Accounts like InvestDirect and National BS.

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Notice Accounts & Bonds like Chelsea BS and Standard Life.

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes First Tessa's (Tax Free) like Ipswich BS and Midland Bank.

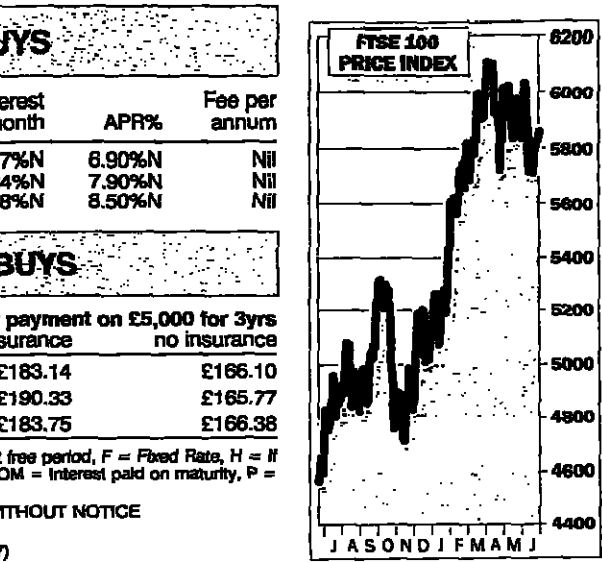
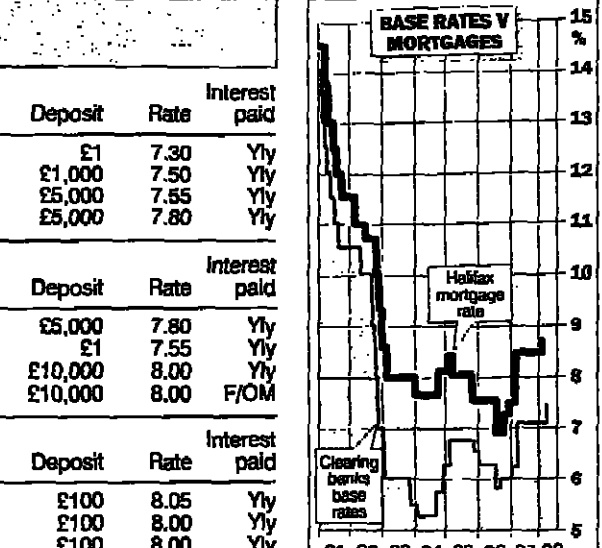
CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Card type, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum. Includes Capital One Bank and RBS Advanta.

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: APR, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance, no insurance. Includes Northern Rock and Yorkshire Bank.

NB: A = Minimum age 25 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, C = No interest free period, F = Fixed Rate, H = If Repaid by Direct Debit, M = Repaid by Monthly Instalment, P = Repaid by Post, T = Operated by Telephone.



NATIONAL SAVINGS

Table with columns: Gross rate, At tax rates, Minimum investment, Notice, Contact. Lists various National Savings products like Ordinary A/C, Investment A/C, and Capital Bonds.

PENSION ANNUITIES

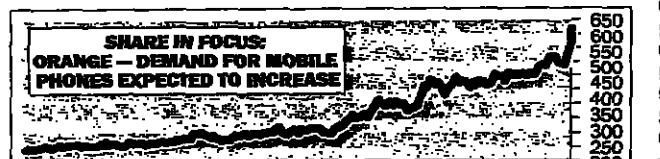
Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists pension annuity providers like Sun Life, Equitable Life, and Norwich Union.

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Table with columns: Investment (£), Company, Standard Rate (%). Lists guaranteed income bond providers like AIG Life, GE Fin Assur, and ITT London & Ed.

FIBS

Table with columns: Gross coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Lists Fixed Income Bonds from providers like Birmingham Midshires and Bradford & Bingley.



LARGER LENDERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists larger lenders like Bank of Scotland, Northern Rock, and Bank of Ireland.

LARGER LOANS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists providers for larger loans like Bank of Scotland, Mansfield, and Scarborough.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists lenders for first-time buyers like Dudley, Wesleyan Hm Lns, and Halifax.

Advertisement for a 6.25% bonus account with a 0800 132 351 contact number. Includes details about the interest rate and account features.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Large table listing various unit-linked insurance investments. Columns include provider names (e.g., AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE, BLACK HORSE LIFE), bid/offer prices, and other financial metrics.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page for 'Sick claim' and 'DIRECT LIFE SAVINGS'. It features large text and graphics promoting financial services.

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Marianne Curphey explains how travellers are benefiting from the strong pound

Holidaymakers cash in on rate rises

The prospect of another interest rate rise next month, which the City believes is now almost certain, will spell extra pain for homeowners with mortgages and manufacturers trying to export abroad.

It will, however, bring pleasure to four million Britons as they prepare to fly off during the peak summer holiday season and who will find that their spending money goes further because of sterling's strength.

Each rise in bank base rates makes the pound more attractive to foreign investors and tends to strengthen sterling against rival currencies.

Most economists now believe that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, which is made up of economists, bankers and academics, will decide on July 9 that another rate rise is necessary to stop the economy overheating.

The City has already built another rise into its calculations. Another 0.25 percentage point rate rise next month would bring the bank base rate to 7.75 per cent and is likely to push up mortgage rates. Halifax's standard variable mortgage rate is now 8.75 per cent.

The most recent 0.25 point interest rate rise caught the City off-guard. After a series of pessimistic figures a week ago and news that the Government had overshoot its inflation target, economists now believe that another rise is almost inevitable.

Holidaymakers will be the beneficiaries of any short-term increase in the value of sterling. As our exchange rate chart shows, the pound has risen 5 per cent against the Spanish peseta over the past 12 months, 4 per cent against the franc and 5 per cent against the mark.

Sterling's appreciation against the Turkish lira and against some Far Eastern currencies has been even more dramatic. Between June 18, 1997, and June 18 this year, sterling rose 84 per cent against the Turkish lira. According to Nigel Newman, head of international research at Barclays, Turkey has been suffering from an inflation rate of 99 per cent in the year to December.

The sudden devaluation of the Malaysian ringgit and the Thai baht, which have fallen 57 per cent and 79 per cent respectively, has been the result of economic instability in those countries.

In Europe, the Greek drachma has devalued against the pound as Greece readies itself for European economic and monetary union. Mr Newman said. The Greek Government made the decision to devalue the currency and now the inflation rate is quite low, he said.

The most recent interest rate rise has already had a marked effect on sterling, according to Chris Wright, economic director of Barclays. He said: "Sterling has moved up sharply against the mark from under DM2.90 to DM3. Part of the reason is the revised expectation of the outlook for interest rates in the UK in the near future."

Economists also measure sterling's strength by comparing it to a basket of more than 25 other currencies from its main trading partners. This is known as the effective rate. Mr Wright said: "The effective rate is currently around 107, up from 85 during 1995 and the first half of 1996. In April the average level was around 107 before it fell again. This week it is back up there at the April rate."

Companies that make money from selling currency and traveller's cheques have noticed that more and more people are using the strength



Tourists are getting more from their money abroad

of sterling to buy their holiday money well before their departure date. Such behaviour prompted Traveler to launch a new "book now, pay later" service allowing customers to buy currency in advance of their holiday when the pound was strong.

The deal allows both busi-

ness and leisure customers to lock into a guaranteed exchange rate up to four months before they travel, at a cost of an extra 1 per cent commission on the transaction.

Clive Kahn, group finance director of Traveler, said: "Last year we saw a change in spending patterns as sterling appreciated by 30 per cent against European currencies. People who were planning to travel in the peak July and August holiday season were buying their currency in April and May because they believed sterling was particularly strong at that time. We decided to offer them the option of buying their currency whenever the exchange rate suited them."

If you were buying £1,000 of currency, you would pay the standard commission of 1.5 per cent plus an extra 1 per cent for the fixed-deal service, bringing the total fee to £25.

Mr Kahn said: "Customers can cancel their orders up to eight days prior to the collection date."

"They will then have their credit cards credited or debited, depending on how the exchange rate has fluctuated since they ordered."

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Forex markets dictate the currency rates

World Cup fans will use them when they buy their holiday money, as will anyone travelling or buying a property overseas. Global banks put hundreds of millions of pounds of deals through them every day, yet foreign exchange (forex) markets go largely unnoticed by the ordinary saver. Foreign exchange is the largest speculative market in the world with an estimated \$1 trillion changing hands every day.

they want to use money earned in the UK to invest in the US. Companies in this position may decide to "hedge" their exposure to currency changes and remove the risk of the pound weakening against the dollar. Hedging involves making a contract to buy or sell currencies at a specific price on a specific date when they know they will need to make a payment overseas.

Q How did the forex market become so big?

A The market was originally established to enable exporting and importing countries to trade with one another. It is now heavily used by large companies and investment and pension managers who hold part of their portfolios overseas in bonds and equities and use the forex markets when they are converting holdings to and from sterling.

Q How do forex deals work?

A The three main forex centres are Tokyo, London and New York and the daily global turnover of exchange is estimated to be \$1 trillion. Forex dealers make small profits on large volumes. Institutional users of the market, such as banks and companies, do not pay any commission. Instead, the dealers, known as market-makers, try to make money on the difference between the price at which they agree to buy currencies and the rate at which they will sell them - known as the bid-offer spread.

Q How do companies cope when currencies are volatile?

A Currency swings can dent a company's profits and affect its earnings. For example, insurance companies with big markets in the US and Asia will be exposed to currency risks if

Q There is a lot of jargon used in describing forex trades - what does it mean?

A The spot price is the current price of a currency available in the market. The forward price is the price at which the deal will be settled on a specific date in the future.

Q How does this affect the rates I can expect when I am buying holiday money?

A Selling currencies to individuals going on holiday is profitable for travel agencies and banks but not as profitable as doing deals for big manufacturers. In addition, banks and travel agents charge commission on exchanges. This means that buying currency is more costly for holidaymakers than for fund managers.

Q Is it possible for individuals to make money out of investing in currencies?

A Buying foreign currency might seem a quick way to a fast buck but attempting to play the international money markets is a dangerous game for individual investors.

Q So is there an alternative way to invest in currency?

A A more serious investor could open a foreign currency account at a bank, which will pay a rate of interest depending on the currency.

EXCHANGE RATES

	June 18, 1997	June 18, 1998	% change year-on-year
Spanish peseta	231.70	244.29	+6%
US dollar	1.6020	1.6283	+1%
French franc	9.28	9.6785	+4%
Turkish lira	229,000	421,430	+84%
German mark	2.7580	2.8978	+5%
Greek drachma	437	487.75	+12%
Italian lire	2700	2855	+6%
Portuguese escudo	205	203.62	-7%
Thai baht	34.67	82.04	+79%
Malaysian ringgit	3.95	6.226	+57%

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COSTS OF HOLIDAY SAVING INDEX SUMMER 1997

DESTINATION	3 course set meal	Bottle of house wine	Cup of coffee	Bottle of beer (bar)	Bottle of suntan lotion
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CYPRUS	£4.90	£3.00	80p	£1.20	£3.50
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Nationwide turns mutual screw

The fight against carpetbaggers has been taken to the cash tills. Anne Ashworth, Jacqui Spray and Lizanne Rose report

Controversy continues over the Nationwide conversion vote, with complaints that branches are applying pressure on the saving and borrowing members of the building society to support the board and reject demutualisation. Meanwhile, members are still protesting over the voting form which they see as both biased and confusing, and designed to ensure unquestioning support for the board.

Raven, a member from Basingstoke, Hampshire, was surprised to find herself "harranged" by counter staff who wished to know whether she had voted and what choice she had made.



Conversion backer: Alan Ingram claims Nationwide directors are misleading members with imprecise information

Nationwide employees are also ready to give pen portraits of Michael Hardern, former banker and Andrew Muir, recruitment consultant, the dissidents who are standing for the board.

Some regional societies to prevent speculators. A Nationwide spokesman said that staff had been briefed to encourage members to vote but that they had been told not to overstep guidelines when dealing with customers.

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Investors shut out from Irish float

Savers and borrowers in the First National Building Society, the Dublin-based group, gave the green light to the society's demutualisation last month, with a 97 per cent vote in favour. Some 200,000 of FNBS's customers are eligible to receive an allocation of 450 free shares when it floats later this year.

Carpetbaggers eye life companies

Canny carpetbaggers are turning their attentions to life companies and the prospects of payouts if a company is taken over or decides to float on the stock market. Changes in the financial services market over recent years have seen a number of mergers and acquisitions as companies look to size as a critical factor in order to compete.

Windfalls could be on the horizon as firms become bigger, says Clare Stewart

Connolly, analyses each of the big mutual life companies and offers the advice that the best option for would-be carpetbaggers is to invest in with-profit funds in selected companies.

One City analyst said: "The mutuals that were weakest have already been taken out of the market, so it is not obvious that any of them have an urgent need to find a partner."

Market Makers, representing eight of the largest groups in the market. The vast majority of policies are sold to professional investors looking at the intrinsic strengths of the investment," he added, though there is "a small group of sophisticated investors."

The RBS Advanta Card. Notice to Cardholders of Interest Change. Due to the change in Base Rate from 7.25% to 7.5%, your RBS Advanta Card interest rate for Purchases and Cash Advances will be amended accordingly from the first day of next month.

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BUBBLING UP 56

Graham Searjeant sees trouble with trackers

WEEKEND MONEY

TEN-YEAR HITCH 57

The best policy is from here to maturity



The sales are starting earlier and lasting longer. Susan Emmett reports

Bargains galore as shops get set for summer season

The Chancellor may prefer us to save our pennies and abhor the consequences for the economy of a consumer boom.

With discounts of up to 50 per cent, and additional enticements for account-holders, the sales offer a chance for sensible shoppers to make real savings.

Harrods, which boasts it offers the only sale worth going to, expects crowds of 300,000, about four times the capacity of Wembley Stadium.

Whether they blame it on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, or the foul summer weather, shops are just not selling as much as they optimistically stocked.

Clive Vaughan, research manager at Verdict Research, the retail consultancy, said: "The weather is blamed for a lot of things. But it does seem to be a factor."

As no retailer wants a mountain of stock hanging around at



Everything must go: retail sales have suffered this year through a combination of bad weather and the "Diana factor"

the end of the season, disappointing sales figures make for an earlier start to the sales and a steep markdown on that dress you have had your eye on for months.

Clive Vaughan, research manager at Verdict Research, the retail consultancy, said: "The weather is blamed for a lot of things. But it does seem to be a factor."

coincidence that some shops have started already. The perception is that there is more unsold summer stock than the retailers would like and they are going to be keener to shift it."

Many of the shops in the Sears group, which includes Miss Selfridges, Wallis, Richards and Warehouse, have already started their sales. Burton and Laura Ashley have also marked down their prices.

ing to one City retail analyst, it will be worth the wait. "Next has a very rigid approach to the sales. It's always at the end of the season and they keep it as short as possible. But they have had earlier problems by stocking too much of the wrong kind of garment and not enough of the right stock, so they are likely to be discounting fairly heavily."

Big department stores in Central London, which rely strongly on tourists' spending power, have been badly hit by

the strength of sterling as visitors whinge about exorbitant prices. The economic crisis in the Far East is keeping the previously free-spending Asians at home. This week Burberry, a division of GUS, disclosed that its raincoats, specially tailored for the more delicate Asian frame, have been staying on the rails despite the soggy weather.

Unfavourable exchange rates have had a particularly damaging impact at the top end of the market, affecting big

names such as Harrods, Selfridges and Liberty. Marks & Spencer on Oxford Street, the tourists' shopping Mecca, is also likely to be hit. M&S starts its sale next week and the discounts are likely to last until the end of August. However, do not expect to find cut-price summer stock at the start. The high street retailer will only be discounting heavier items such as knitwear and suits in the first few weeks.

For Pauline Haldane, editor of Ministry magazine and self-confessed shopaholic, the sales are always a good opportunity to get hold of designer gear.

"Whenever I get paid I spend about £250 as soon as possible," she said. "I read Vogue and Elle magazines and try to find cheaper alternatives to designer clothes. But there are some really great Alexander McQueen pinstripe skirts in Harvey Nichols I want to get. They also have some Givenchy dresses I'd like them to reduce."

Harvey Nichols will be slashing its prices by up to 50 per cent from July 1 with an extra 10 per cent off for account-holders during the first four days of the sale. The absolutely fabulous department store, famed for its designer women's wear, will cut the price tag on items by Dolce and Gabbana, Calvin Klein, Chloe and DKNY.

Next door, Harrods offers 50 per cent off Jill Sander, Gucci and Prada. Shoppers looking for the ultimate bargain chic might also be enticed by the Amanda Wakeley gold crepe evening dress with beaded bodice, down from £1,409 to a mere £349. If dressing down is more your style, a white bikini by Calvin Klein will be reduced from £70 to £19.95.

INSIDE

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BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 26-31

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Watchdog bares teeth on mortgage penalties

Pressure to simplify mortgage schemes by abolishing redemption penalties grew this week with a report from the Building Societies Ombudsman highly critical of lenders' practices.

The borrower had taken a loan from the society on the basis that he could repay most of it with money due to him when he retired three years on. The society's loan offer said a fee would be due only if he repaid all of it, but the mortgage deed said that part repayment would trigger the fee.

Mr Murphy said he was concerned about the complexity of "starter" and cut-price mortgages with which societies woo new borrowers. Lenders, he said, were not spelling out "onerous conditions" such as redemption penalties on fixed-rate, discounted and cashback offers.

Mr Murphy also said he is to name and



Cope: excluded from future offers

shame two lenders that fine homeowners who fall behind on payments. Borrowers face a monthly penalty of 2 to 3 per cent of arrears. Mr Murphy said it was "unconscionable" to punish people in difficulty.

Cutting out confusing terminology would help borrowers such as Jane Cope, of Sutton Coldfield. The former building society employee thought she was wise to any pitfall in a mortgage offer. When a

fixed-rate deal from the Alliance & Leicester ended last year, she asked whether the lender had any offer for existing borrowers. It did - a one-year fix at just 2.99 per cent. There was no mention of redemption penalties in the offer document, and the deal went through. This month, the fixed rate ended, and Mrs Cope and her husband found they were not free to take up any other offer by A&L, because the deal locks them into its variable rate until 2001. Mrs Cope had overlooked part of the offer detailing a "repayment fee period".

"I knew you could incur early redemption penalties if you repaid any part of the loan or moved home," she said. "But this repayment fee is not the same thing at all. We had no intention of moving or switching to another lender. We simply want to be able to take any offers available for existing borrowers."

An A&L spokeswoman said that "repayment fee period" was the standard term it used and was explained in the offer. She said Mrs Cope should have been made aware of deals with no lock-in periods.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

Beat Brown's fourfold tax rise

Holidaymakers have just over a month left to buy cheaper travel insurance before a fourfold increase in tax on policies comes into force.

Currently, when you arrange cover through a travel agent, you pay 17.5 per cent tax on your premium. If you buy direct or through an

insurance broker, the tax is 4 per cent. All this will change on August 1 when the insurance premium tax (IPT) rate will be harmonised and a flat rate of 17.5 per cent will be charged on all policies.

This means that for every £100 worth of premium you pay, the IPT rise will add an

extra £13.50 to the bill. The change was introduced in Gordon Brown's Budget in March and travel insurers are urging customers to buy their insurance now to beat the tax increase. If you are a frequent traveller it may be more cost-effective for you to buy an annual travel policy just before the beginning of August.

As our table from Direct Line shows, the increase in IPT will be a significant extra expense for a family of four, particularly if they intend to travel outside Europe. The cost of an annual US/worldwide policy, including cover for personal possessions, with IPT at 4 per cent will cost just over £125, while from August 1 the premium will increase to almost £142 for the same family.

It is also important to shop around for travel insurance,

since premiums vary widely even for similar cover, and travel agencies make substantial margins on selling insurance as part of a package holiday.

The Department of Trade and Industry has taken steps to prevent travel agents from making insurance a compulsory part of any package holiday special offers, after an investigation uncovered evidence that some companies were funding holiday discounts by selling expensive insurance.

Adrian Webb, spokesman for Direct Line, said: "Some big companies are making greater margins selling insurance than selling holidays. When the Government clamps down on these practices we should see a better deal for consumers on premiums."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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Source: Direct Line Travel Insurance

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150 ميسه

ANNE ROBINSON

FASHION



Hurley burly: Liz likes her apes to be wild

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Summer vests your father wouldn't approve of

PAGE 5



Our guide to the season's hottest sales

PAGE 8



Tony and Cherie can spend what they like on their bed

PAGE 3

THE TIMES

WEEKEND

SATURDAY JUNE 27 1998

The house Diana called home



The teenage Diana at Althrop, the ancestral home where she first met Prince Charles during a weekend house party. She moved there in 1975 on the death of her grandfather and hoped to take over the Garden House in the grounds in later life

Such was her appeal that everyone remembers the moment they heard of Diana's death, and feels some sort of personal impact from that moment. My memories are of telephone calls in the middle of the night, one of which confirmed the very worst: the car crash had been fatal. It soon became clear that practicalities would have to be dealt with. While arrangements for the funeral started, so did the question of where she should be buried. For nearly five centuries, members of the family had been placed in the chapel in St Mary's, Brington. Most recently, my grandparents and my father had been buried there; the

The museum in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, opens this week. Charles Spencer describes the task of creating a fitting tribute at Althrop

sealed entrance chiselled open, before being cemented shut again. In 1992, when my sisters and I placed the urn with our father's ashes in the vault, I had said to the three of them: "Do you realise one of us is probably going to have to go through this sort of thing, with the other three of us?" It seemed that the first of those occasions had arrived, all too soon. Yet just as plans were being made to

place Diana with her ancestors, a message came from London that she had requested in her will that her remains be buried in a coffin, rather than be cremated.

This worried me enormously, because ventilation would be needed, and with ventilation came some sort of access to the vault. All the ancestral bodies had been tidied up and cremated by grandfather in the Fifties and

the last three burials had been of ashes. There was also the whole question of the effect on Brington. The village was already being overrun by tourists and the media, since it was anticipated that this would be the place where Diana would be laid to rest. Put simply, it was doubtful that the village could cope.

These were the darkest days, when family grief was all but matched by the devastation of a nation that had witnessed the demise of someone who had seemed as far removed from death as it was possible to be. Anyone who

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We wanted to celebrate Diana's life and not just mourn her death

Continued from page 1
has experienced the death of a close relative will know that insomnia is one of the symptoms of intense grief. It was during such a spell of listless wakefulness that I realised that we would have to bring Diana inside the park in order to protect her — and Brighton — as best we could.

From there, it was but a short step to deciding that the island in the Round Oval would be the best place for her to be buried.
She loved water: it was her element. There was also the fact that the water would act as a buffer against the interventions of the insane and ghoulish, the thick mud presenting a further line of defence. We all agreed that, with its beauty and tranquillity this was the place for Diana to be.

Six days after the burial, where the Princess of Wales' regiment had performed so magnificently, a meeting took place in the Great Room, at Althorp. Present were my two managers, the police, the Highway Authorities, local councillors and myself.

The agenda was simple: now that we had seen the thousands of people bringing their floral tributes to the gates of the park, how we were to cope with the invasion of people who would descend on Althorp and its environs, once we opened for 60 days per year, as we were legally obliged to do?

One senior police officer pointed out that Princess Grace of Monaco's grave attracted 10,000 visitors a day during the summer. It was clear that Diana's even greater global appeal, that we would be facing several times that number each day we were open, and it was clear we could not cope with that — not the estate, not the roads approaching the area, not Northamptonshire.

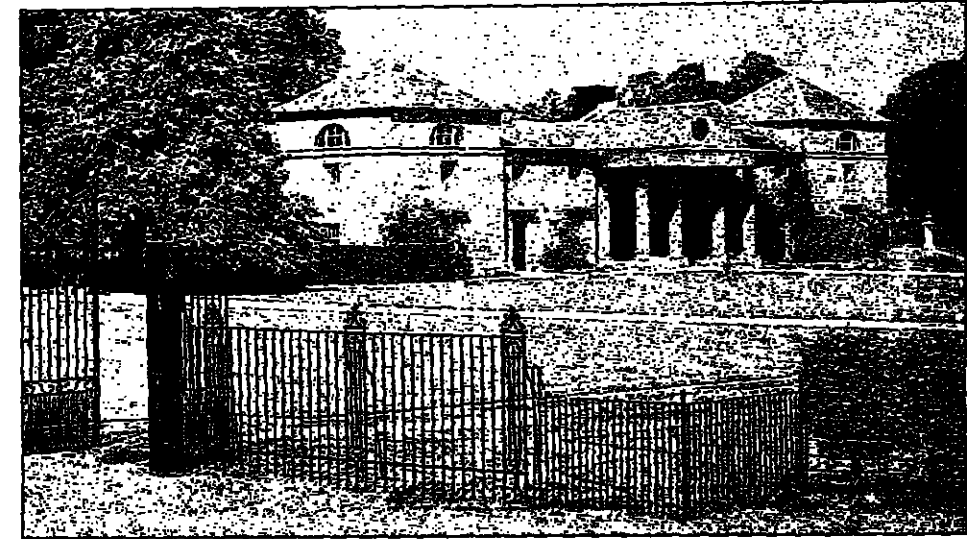
Over the next weeks, a plan was formulated: we would open for 60 days as required; we would make each day's ticket allocation 2,500, so preserving the dignity of Althorp, these tickets would be only available in advance, and it would be made clear that nobody arriving at Althorp without a ticket would have a chance of entry; all profits



Earl Spencer in front of the stable block which is being transformed into a museum celebrating the life of the Princess of Wales. "Many people will see their day at Althorp as a pilgrimage on Diana's behalf"



Diana with her brother and sister at Althorp. Right, the Spencer family mausoleum which was unsuitable for her burial



The former stables will be visited by 2,500 people a day for 60 days each year

would be handed over to Diana's Memorial Fund; an exhibition would be created, in the stables, to celebrate Diana's life, and mark the impact of her death. Come September 1998, when the gates of the park closed again, we would re-evaluate, and decide what to do in future years.

It was now important to put together a team to deal with the plans — plans that had to be implemented by July 1, the date that we had agreed with the Government prior to Diana's death would be our

first day of opening. It was the date of Diana's birth. Similarly, by a strange coincidence, we were committed to be open for 60 days from then, which took us very close to the date of her very premature death, August 31.

I had clear instructions for everyone who was on the project: "Everything has to be beyond reproach, and we have to take Althorp out of the stratosphere of the conventional English stately home."

Both objectives were in honour of Diana: both were to be achieved via the best judgment of ourselves — certainly not via the howlings of the media who, furious that the goose that laid the golden eggs was no longer there to help their circulation figures, had decided to whip up endless accusations and controversies about my family's plans at Althorp, in an attempt to create "reader interest". It seems an unduly cruel and hurtful campaign to have undertaken, against a grieving family.

David Horton-Fawkes was in charge of the project. He had run the corporate business in the House and Park previously, and before that had a distinguished record in hotel management. Frances Mossman was also a comfort. A creative force behind the entrepreneur George Davies in the Eighties, she was a senior adviser to the National Trust and a lecturer at St Martin's School of Art. To Frances went the task of stocking a shop which was tasteful, and which used neither the name nor image of Diana to sell its stock. Frances and her business part-

ner, Fiona Sale, focused on three ranges, inspired by Althorp, by Diana's love of natural products, and by her love of children.

The latter was the most inspired of the three. Among all the tens of thousands of condolences we received at Althorp from children; the cards of Little Heath Primary School, Pottery Bar, stood out because of their vibrancy and charm. We invited the school to design a base range of goods and the results are wonderful additions to the shop's

range their appeal complemented by their freshness. We knew Althorp was classical and weighty. We knew Diana was modern and inspirational. The plan was to fuse the various elements to make something appropriate, something worthy of her contribution to people's lives.

The exhibition in Morris's 18th-century stable block needed to be designed by someone who understood Diana's modern qualities. Rasshid Din's work for Ralph Lauren had the appropriate sense of style

whilst his commissions for the British Airports Authority showed how seriously he was to be taken as a designer. He has produced six rooms out of the former carriage houses and stabling areas, in which Diana's life and death are set in context. In other parts of the stables, he has transformed the old tea room into a modern restaurant using many of the features of the time when this was a place for horses.

Across the yard we have

Continued on page 3

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The real House of Lords

Rohan Daft visits a Salvation Army hostel patronised by nobility

THE CRILLON in Paris is more opulent, the Chelsea in New York is more other-worldly and the Edwardian palaces on the Swiss lakes have better views, but nowhere, not even Claridge's, the Savoy and the Ritz, is as grand as Vandon House hotel in London.

Not that you would guess, though, from a first glance. Vandon House is one of two hotels in London owned and run by the Salvation Army. Essentially, it's a no-frills red-brick B&B founded in the Sixties. It offers 35 clean and comfortable — if utilitarian — rooms which start at an astoundingly reasonable £33 a night, with a full English breakfast thrown in.

The grandeur is to be found in the computerised register which, it is said, reads like a digest of DeBrett's. More members of the aristocracy — plus the occasional MP — stay at Vandon House than at any other hotel in London. And the reason for the hotel's blue-blooded clientele, apart from its prices, is its position. It stands just off Buckingham Gate, a five-minute stroll from the Houses of Parliament.

"We try to keep our prices economical because we are not a big plush hotel," says Rita Gauntlett, the hotel's general manager. The room rates are comfortably within the £78 that non-London resident members of the Upper House can claim for overnight accommodation expenses.

"We tend to go for a 'home from home' atmosphere," she continues, "so that people like the Lords and the MPs feel comfortable when they are here. I know some of them by their first names but I tend to address them by their titles. The reception staff are more on first name terms."

So, to the reception staff, Lord Lofthouse of Punteract is plain Geoff. Other titled visitors that the hotel is happy to name include the sixth Baron Hampton, Lord Bleas and Lady Fisher of Rednal, MPs who patronise Vandon House include the Ulster Unionist members for South Antrim and West Tyrone, Clifford Forsythe and William Thompson.

Such an eclectic mix of guests can make for lively debate. And the best time and place to catch it is in the breakfast room at 7.30am. "The Lords don't always get along," says Kerry Coke, 26, hotel manager. "One little group has a special table for breakfast that only they are allowed to sit at. They get there at 7.30am. There's one lord that the others ignore — it's weird. Sometimes they like him and he is allowed to sit down and sometimes he is not."

"It's a bit like children in the playground," adds Mrs Gauntlett. Though all are, as she says, more than welcome members of the "great family here at Vandon" and as such, their occasionally fickle behaviour is happily tolerated.

There are, nevertheless, house rules. A copy of the Salvation Army's Mission Statement, its raison d'être, hangs in reception. Mrs Gauntlett says: "Our mission, in a way, is to offer good quality, reasonably priced secure accommodation with a Christian influence. We don't ram religion down people's throats but we do have family prayers which guests and staff are invited to attend." Curiously, for all the Christian influence, I couldn't find a Bible in my room.

The other two main house rules, as you might imagine, involve alcohol and tobacco. Neither is tolerated. The rules of abstinence have not prevented the occasional guest from getting as drunk as the proverbial, as Mrs Gauntlett recalls. "One peer with a very well-known problem with the tiple [she is naming no names] was known to collapse on the floor in reception. He was virtually living here until someone turned up and took him off to a rehab centre."

Another long-time resident, the late Lord Airedale, the former Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, offered to buy the place for £3 million shortly before it briefly closed for refurbishment three years ago. He was worried that it might not reopen.

Of course, the Government's proposal to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers would mean that the likes of Lord Airedale would no longer have a need for Vandon House hotel. That would be a sad development for Mrs Gauntlett and her staff. "They are human like the rest of us," she says. "They eat and drink and sleep. It's just that they happen to be titled. You know who they are and they know who they are but most of them don't throw it about."

● Vandon House Hotel is at 1 Vandon Street, London SW1H 0AH (0171-799 0700)



Rohan Daft at the hostel near Buckingham Palace which costs £33 a night

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Anne Robinson



● A BRIEF trip to the Lakes and the Highlands in the last week, and the discovery of a new phenomenon, Country House Hotel chic. A polite form of social terrorism. When I wonder, did these once care-free establishments convert to top-of-the-range in price and style? Is it a desire to satisfy Americans that causes beef as a main course to be five little pieces fanned out on a plate, instead of a robust steak? Or no choice at all for dinner, but an insistence that guests descend promptly at 7.30 for the official unveiling of what's to come. Plus a ban on smoking in the dining room and, in most cases, no dogs anywhere.

The sort of touches that threaten the opposite of a relaxed country house atmosphere.

Perhaps lumpy attempts at Michelin menus, along with identically folded bathrobes, fibre glass Jacuzzis, and a firm line on cigarette smoking and people's pets, is laid down in secret hotel-owners guidelines of what the majority of

guests prefer, along with the suggestion that providing extra bits and pieces permits a more ambitious scale of charges.

To be fair, the country house hotel services we encountered was impeccable, if overwhelming. Because the effect of being fussed over by a well-meaning owner transforms you from awkward consumer, easily prepared to do battle with a PAYE hotel manager, into polite guest in someone else's home. One far too well-mannered to dream of mentioning the overcooked vegetables or the disappointment at finding easy-to-iron polyester-mix sheets on the four-poster bed.

● A PIT STOP off the M6 to Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal, currently housing a powerful exhibition of 20th-century portraits. Bacon, Freud, Passmore, Sickert, Hockney. My favourite, a 1940 Anthony Devas. Six O'clock News. A figure slouched in a chair smoking. (Country house hotel owners would not approve.) Abbot Hall's director

Edward King is currently reeling from a letter in *The Westmoreland Gazette* in which a Mr Bolongaro, a local resident, rails against some recent acquisitions. A Bridget Riley, a Ben Nicholson and a Frank Auerbach. Hardly Damien Hirst.

"One is so monstrously ugly it defies description," rants Mr B, and "Another is nothing more than a design suitable for pair of gaudy and vulgar curtains."

In his reply King quotes another irate correspondent writing in the *Morning Post* in 1910, who describes an exhibition of Post Impressionists, that included paintings by Cezanne, Van Gogh, Gauguin and Matisse, as "depressing rubbish".

If I were *The Westmoreland Gazette* editor I could barely resist sending a photographer to take a peep at what hangs on Mr B's own walls. As I'm not, I settle for track-

ing down a Mr Bolongaro of Kendal in Dobrett's. A self-penned entry has him as "connoisseur of old master paintings". Hee-hee.

● "HOW ver doin'?" asks a youth with streaky blonde hair who is cleaning the windows of Inverloch Castle as we take a look around. Only good cheer is conveyed in this Highlands greeting. And one responds accordingly. But, of course,

if the same is said to you in a London street by a teenager of similar description you are apt to imagine the question is drug-induced and you are about to be mugged.

● THE clutch of new multi-millionaire Labour peers is announced while we are away. That several grew rich in the Thatcher years should allow our former Prime Minister a smug smile. And it reminds me of our unexpected meeting at a small Boxing Day lunch at the height of her power. As we sipped drinks and tucked into peacocks before the meal Mrs T launched into a homily on property and the wise purchase thereof. "Buy a big house from the start. That's what I always say to youngsters. Then you don't have to keep moving." Murmurs of "Yes, Prime Minister" followed. Was no one going to mention the blindingly obvious? Clearly not. So, nervously, I ventured the idea that not everybody could afford a big house when they were first married. Mrs T did

not miss a beat. "I bet," she responded briskly, "you've made some money out of houses while I've been in office." She was right. We had.

● THE rich-and-proud-of-it new Government peers should also refreshingly scotch any lingering notion that New Labour and having and spending lots of money on whatever takes your fancy are incompatible. Just after the Blairs moved into Downing Street, an award-winning young female novelist I met at a party told me she did not think it right for Tony and Cherie to have paid £3,000 for a new bed. And then walked off in a huff when I asked her to name an amount — £800? £1,500? — she considered acceptable for an incoming Labour Prime Minister to spend on a bed.

● BACK home to Kensington to hear the angry beating of drums at the news that the Diana Memorial Garden is still on. Watch this space.



Diana's affinity with children will be celebrated at the new museum as will her flair for clothes. Above, in the drawing room before a ball in 1979



Diana in the grounds which were relandscaped in her memory: 10,000 plants were used

Continued from page 2

kept the shop small, because commerce is not the point of the exhibition, or its attendant services. Serving the public is. It is a truism that the public really do notice the standard of food provided for them, so at Althorp it was decided not to stint on making them of the highest quality. Many people will see their day at Althorp almost as a pilgrimage on Diana's behalf, so Portaloos in the corner of a field would clearly be inappropriate.

Thirty-three tonnes of Northamptonshire ironstone, as near as possible to the material used by Morris two and a half centuries ago, have been used on the construction of the loos, and the improvements to the stables. The doors and partitions of the cubicles are oak; the dominant tree of the park.

The scale of works has been huge. Barry, the foreman, has had 160 men per day working at Althorp and the caterer at the on-site burger bar has served 30,000 bacon rolls since March.

The stables being such an important listed building, the local planning officers have rightly insisted that everything be done to the highest standard.

Duchess of Marlborough, with some of her jewellery and her greatest portrait, by Kneller, here also Georgiana Spencer, later Duchess of Devonshire and one of the most glamorous figures in 18th-century England, who used to cause similar reactions among the people of London, during her public appearances as Diana did, two hundred years on; also Lavinia, Second Countess Spencer, friend of Nelson and Sir Joshua Reynolds, another independent, ground-breaking woman; fourthly Charlotte, the Red Earl's wife, considered one of the great beauties of 19th-century England; and then Grandmother, in a sketch by Sargent.

The point is this: to the world at large Lady Diana Spencer came to prominence in 1980 or 1981, but she did not come from nowhere. By showing the themes she was continuing, it is easier to make sense of her later contributions. She was proud to be a Spencer, and this room explains why.

The next room is perhaps the most startling, with its cine footage of Diana's childhood, shot lovingly by my father: her christening; her first winter; her first birthday; her first steps; her love of animals; her passion for swimming; her setting off for her first term at boarding school.

When I first watched all the footage — and there is an enormous amount of it, from which four minutes were selected — it was an incredibly harrowing experience. To watch the willowy little girl delighting in life, and yet knowing what was to happen to her, 30-odd years later, lent the screening a dramatic irony that I could live without.

At first I had hoped to edit it myself, but it was too personal, too draining. The job went to Tim Ashton, a London



Diana's toy car is moved into the museum, which will also house childhood photographs

creative director, who has added a deeply moving sound track, down to the final flickering of the frame, as it freezes on Diana at her happiest.

The third room deals with the glamour and excitement of the Royal Wedding; the dress taking centre stage, as well as many other memories of that portentous day in 1981.

From there, it is to a space dedicated to Diana's charitable and humanitarian work, underlining why people appreciated her. Testimonies from her charities to her extraordinary

effect on their morale, bank balances, staff and recipients adorn the walls.

On into the Tribute Room, an evocation of those doom-laden days between Diana's death and burial, when the public was reduced to shocked silence, in their attempt to digest the death of a much-loved icon. Here is another Tim Ashton-edited video and other items, including the original text of my tribute to Diana, written in the early hours of the Wednesday of that week. It probably sounds pompous but

it was a privilege to deliver it for her, in the way I know she would have wanted it.

We want to celebrate Diana's life and not just mourn her death, so the final room — the main one in the Stables — is made over to her glamour, with huge glass cases displaying her finest clothes: again in context, and not simply as a fashion parade. In a huge glass case at the end are the condolence books from around the world, giving a final sense of scale to the impact of Diana's life and

of her death. Outside, the park and gardens have been adapted by Dan Pearson, one of Britain's foremost garden designers. Thirty-six oaks were planted in the avenue, to signify the years Diana lived, and 10,000 plants were used, including 100 white rambling roses on the island where she was buried, and 1,000 white lilies donated by Stowe School in the water.

Next to the lake stands a small temple. I had Edward Bulmer design something fitting for Diana, using the temple as a focal point where the public could lay their floral tributes. In the centre, at the front of the Temple, is a silhouette of Diana, in black marble on a white background.

At the opposite end of the island is an urn on a plinth, standing proud and noble, establishing this as the final resting place of a national heroine.

Althorp House now has a place in history far greater than it ever got from its fleeting royal visits of old; but the old place can cope, just as it has with everything else that

has come its way, since we first grazed our herds here, in the time of Henry Tudor.

● Charles Spencer

● Extracted from: *Althorp: The Story of an English Country House* by Charles Spencer to be published by Viking in November. To reserve a copy send a cheque/postal order for £16.00 made payable to Penguin Books Ltd, or credit card details to Althorp Office, Penguin Direct, Bath Road, Harmondsworth UB7 0EA. Open to residents of the UK only. Offer closes July 31, 1998. Books will be supplied within 30 days of publication.

Every week, more than 100 bouquets are still left at the gates of Kensington Palace in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. Althorp, too, has to deal with 100 bunches a week.

Earl Spencer has been overseeing the conversion of Althorp's stable block and park into a permanent

FACT FILE

exhibition in memory of Diana. It will not be complete for several years.

Nikolaus Pevsner, the architectural historian, described the Palladian stables as "the finest piece of architecture at Althorp".

Visitors to Althorp will be allowed to see the house, home to the Spencer family for five centuries, the gardens, and the island where Diana is buried.

Althorp is off the M1 in Northamptonshire, 70 miles from London. Tickets are available at £9.50 on 01604 592020

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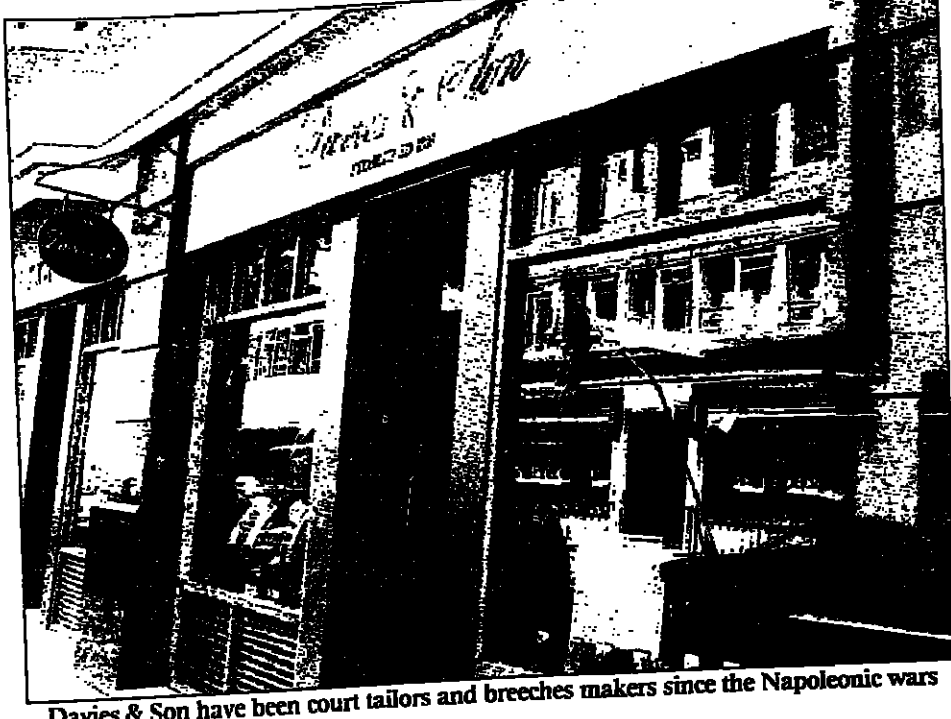
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A World of Difference

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Davies & Son have been court tailors and breeches makers since the Napoleonic wars

Cutting a dash in W1

If there is a stereotype in the career of the actress Lia Williams, it is the quirky variety of roles she has played — weeping Madonnas, psychopathic serial killers, strident feminists and put-upon mothers are all within her scope. So it is no surprise to find her at ease in Davies & Son, court tailors and breeches makers, in the heartland of men's tailoring — Savile Row.

"It's wonderful, isn't it?" she says, as her eyes sweep around the panelled room, pausing at the City of London pikeman and musketeer's uniform which is awaiting collection. The scarlet costume, with gold frogging and wisps of white linen, provides a stark contrast to the bolts of sensible pinstripes and worsteds.

Warrants attesting to the patronage of kings and courtiers dot the walls, but it is history of another kind which brings Ms Williams to Savile Row. For now this male bastion has been stormed by a woman designer.

Andrea Galer has been a costume designer for film and television for more than 25 years. Her credits include *Poirt*, *Bodyguards* and *Capital City*. Richard E. Grant was so taken with the coat she designed for him for the cult film *Withnail and I* that he asked her to make him one. That's typical of the relationship Ms Galer forges with the actors she meets.

It was the film *Firelight*, an atmospheric costume drama written and directed by William Nicholson, the creator of *Shadowlands*, which brought Ms Williams and Ms Galer together. "Andrea created the most exquisite dress for me," the actress says. "But what was extraordinary was the way that she communicated. "When she meets the actor

Jane Symons finds Lia Williams turning to the first lady of Savile Row

my favourite shop

who is going to play a particular character, Andrea — unwittingly, I think — sets out to find out all about them. She doesn't probe, she just talks and gets a feeling for you. It's that feeling which flows through into her clothes."

When they next worked together — on *Imogen's Face*, which starts on TV next week — a pair of gloves sealed the friendship. Lord Olivier used to say that shoes were the crucial thing; get the shoes right, and the character falls into place. For Ms Williams it was gloves. "We were halfway through rehearsals when I rummaged through a drawer and found a pair of gloves I had worn for *Seaforth*. There was something about the pattern that made me think, 'that's it, that's the character.'"

She showed the gloves to Ms Galer. "We spent an afternoon rummaging in second-hand clothing shops and everything she pulled out was what I had been talking about."

Now Ms Williams is being fitted for a soft green full-length coat in a luxurious mix of cashmere and wool — a bespoke original made up by Davies & Son to a Galer

design which will cost £1,800. It's a long way from the mini-skirted vigilante she played in the film *Dirty Weekend*. Michael Winner's feminist echo of *Death Wish*, *Gone*, too, is her trademark long blonde hair. "I was being dragged down by it," she says.

Theatre audiences who remember her portrayal of the politically correct student in *Oleanna* will barely recognise the new-look redhead of her latest stage role — in Harold Pinter's *The Lover*. Her sister did a double-take when she first saw her in the vibrant red gown by Ms Galer.

Alan Bennett, the owner of Davies & Son, has also worked with Ms Galer on films. "Something and Something in America," he says with a mischievous disregard for luvviedom. "*Love and Death on Long Island*." Ms Galer corrects him, as they chalk up the adjustments to be made on the coat.

Mr Bennett was quick to recognise Ms Galer's unique talent. "We understand each other," he says. "I have worked with designers who haven't known about cut and construction. Andrea is different. She really understands tailoring."

He knows that inviting Ms Galer to work in his Savile Row shop is tantamount to introducing a woman to a gentleman's club, but since Davies & Son was founded in 1803, he thinks the firm has been around long enough to avoid being black-balled. Edward VIII, Harry Truman, Calvin Klein and even Michael Jackson have had clothes made here. Recent commissions include the waistcoats for Henry Dent-Brocklehurst's wedding. Ms Galer, for her part, is aware of the accolade of being



Lia Williams (right) with Andrea Galer, the first woman designer on Savile Row. "A feeling flows through her clothes"

the first woman designer on the Row but is not fazed by it. As Ms Williams says: "She's very sure about what she's doing." That confidence is reflected in Ms Galer's immaculate cut garments. "She is good at being able to make women look seriously dressed, but still look like women," she says.

She changes into a Galer suit to hurry off to audition for a film alongside a well-known Hollywood actor. It's a big role, but not the toughest — or most rewarding — she has taken. That, she says, is undoubtedly being a single mother to her eight-year-old son, Joshua.

© Davies & Son, 28 Savile Row, London W1 (0171-434 3016). Open: Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm; Sat, 9.30am-1pm.

GADGETS

WHATEVER happened to the paperless office? Envisaged in the early Eighties, it was a revolution that failed to show. Office life in the Nineties seems as swamped with paper as ever.

The fax machine played its part, spewing forth reams of mess. But these machines have come a long way since their first cumbersome inception. The title of the Philips PPF241 — a "Plain Paper Fax" machine — says it all.

This means that the machine (pictured below) uses regular sheets of A4 paper rather than special rolls of the photosensitive stuff.

The beauty is twofold: there are no more mad dashes in the shop when the machine runs out, and because the faxes are printed, unlike those on photosensitive paper, they will never fade.

It all sounds too good to be true, so where's the catch? Well, instead of running out of paper, now you risk running out of the special carbon paper "ink film" rolls. One of these special roll provides only 50 copies.



The Football Zapper is another treat from Philips, aimed at the millions of armchair football fanatics now gripped by World Cup fever. It boasts the two things most fans need during crucial games — a simplified television remote control with one button to operate at one end.

The six-button remote will tune itself to most models of television. You can sur the channels and alter or mute the volume. With the sixth button, heaven forbid, you can turn off the set.

In our special picnic trial, both remote and bottle opener worked perfectly.

TIM WAPSHOTT
 ● PPF241 plain paper fax machine, £279.99, from Philips (01256 372823). Philips Football Zapper, £12.99, from Argos or by mail order from Duchwest (01434 329452).

SHOP WATCH

□ Kenneth Turner's Mayfair flower shop (pictured) now has a new attraction: he has just opened a flower school around the corner. Courses last from one to three days and span everything from garden flowers to indoor topiary. The school is at 58 South Molton Street, London W1 (0171-409 2560).

□ Urban Outfitters, the first UK branch of the American street-fashion chain, offers a mix of chill-out and lounge-lizard clothes. It also has a coffee bar. The shop is at 36-38 Kensington High Street, London W8 (0171-761 1001).

godparents' prayers: its crammed with personalised presents for children. Hand-painted named nursery mugs are £12.99; wooden jigsaws £19.99; and gingham tooth fairy cushion costs £9.99. Order on 01872 580885.

□ UPDATE: Bag yourself a makeover at Liberty with Face Stockholm. It'll cost £15, redeemable against a purchase. The offer ends June 30. Call 0171-734 1234 to book. The Heal's sale is now on at its branches in London and Guildford. Call 0171-636 1666 for details.

□ Letterbox's mail-order catalogue may have the answer to



style preference, and art for sale is displayed. Contact Unit 3, Heathman's Road, London SW6 (0171-371 8787).

JUDITH WILSON

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RIGHT: The Opal Transfusion body and hair jelly, £3.99 (300ml), comes in hospital-style blue packaging. Its pop-up nozzle makes dispensing measured doses easy. From The In Group (0171-247 3561)

LEFT: This ornate glass bottle contains white musk bath crystals from MAP, £13.95 (140g), made with salts from the Dead Sea. From Liberty (021-734 1234)

RIGHT: Penthalgon's Comubia bath oil is priced at £33 (200ml) but is worth it for its glass flask, topped with a purple bow (0800-716108)

RIGHT: Muji offers 300g of Herb bath salts for £2.95 in its signature white package Muji (021-323 2208)

RIGHT: Tesco's foam bath comes in a screw-top tin flask and contains essential oils. Cheap at £2.49 (200ml), with a choice of lavender, lime or eucalyptus scents (0800-505555)

HEAVEN SCENT

BATH OILS AND ESSENCES

gone are the days when bathtime was just about keeping squeaky clean. Since the arrival of aromatherapy, bath oils and essences have become firmly established as water-soluble, stress busters. Good old Epsom salts are still available for traditionalists but the new wave of soak-and-go treatments come in the form of effervescent bath bombs and giant herb-filled tea bags.

When it comes to choosing a fragrance, Jo Malone, purveyor of super-stylish bath oils, advises bravery. "The old trend of buying one fragrance and using it for years is out of date," she says. "Bath oils are much more subtle than perfumes because they are diluted — so be experimental." For sticky summer days she suggests hunting down a product containing a citrus fragrance such as orange blossom, verbena, grapefruit or lemon because they make the body feel cool, while an infusion containing sandalwood, amber, or vetiver will give off a sultry smell as the body warms up. First-time buyers should stick to a light, floral fragrance such as honeysuckle or jasmine.

Pampering doesn't come cheap, but there is a sale of the splendid Aveda range this week. Up to 50 per cent discount is being offered on July 3-4 at The House of Saint Barnabas in Soho, 1 Greek St, London W1 (0171-437 1894).

Once you have your chosen potion, remember to secure the top tightly and keep it away from direct sunlight to stop the fragrance deteriorating.

MARY ANN PERCY

Photographs by Des Jenson

LEFT: Bath Ballistic's fizzing bombs from Lush (01202-667330) have individual names — the Slammer, £1.70 (200g) is lemon and lime scented, the white Tasty Tasty, £1.85 (100g), has rose but embeds in it, and All That Jas, £1.85 (200g), is green with a candied flower on the top

RIGHT: La Source from Crabtree & Evelyn, £12.95 (90g), is a revitalising mineral soak containing peppermint oil, sea algae and camomile. It also has a handy miniature shovel. From Zest (0171-226 6138)

LEFT: The Huile Parfumée conical flask, £29.95 (750ml), from Amalite & Melanie is stunning, with leaves suspended above a floor of coffee beans. The oil is very fine and has a subtle scent. From Liberty (0171-734 1234)

ABOVE: Jo Malone's exquisitely packaged Honeysuckle and Jasmine bath oil, £42 (200ml), smells so good you won't want to share it (0171-720 0202 mail order)

Handwritten text: 0845 30 20005

150 مائة جلد

Don't go out without your vest

Grandfather's underwear has been coloured, moulded and embroidered for this summer's look, says Lisa Grainger



White logo vest, £28, Hicky, Duffer of St George, 929 Shorts Gardens, WC2 (0171-379 4660)



Black crocheted vest, £45, Kookai, selected branches nationwide (0171-937 4411)



Mint airtex vest, £52, Bernstock/ Spiers, Ten, 10 Columbia Road, E2 (0171-729 7229)

It has been an odd week for fashion: for once, its dedicated followers have witnessed this season's hottest item paraded not on its most fragrant women, but its least fragrant men — footballers.

Throughout the summer we have seen the vest invade both the pitch and the catwalk, adorning the tiny frame of England's Kate Moss and underneath the team shirt of the less petite figures of Scottish footballers. It has become the one item that we will all be wearing, whether we are dedicated followers of football or of fashion.

At the beginning of the fashion season the must-have little top was adorned with images of the Madonna by Dolce & Gabbana, tassels and beading by Julien Macdonald, and butterflies by Matthew Williamson; now the football season is upon us, the logos of companies such as Nike and Pepsi are jostling with fashionable icons for our attention — and our wallets.

Vests have always been popular with men (particularly with grandfathers, builders and middle-management). This season, though, they have become summer essentials for women, too — fine strapped versions to complement the wispy looks of the summer, and round-necked, simple cuts to match the season's more structured looks.

Although every high street will have a good selection of the basics to stock up on, vests are one item that it is safe to buy from mail-order catalogues. Racing Green does a spaghetti-strap fitted vest made of super-stretchy cotton that is so supportive it does not need underwear (£17 from 0990 41111), as well as the popular round-neck sleeveless T-shirt with wide straps for those who prefer not to go sans brassière.

Larger women can turn to Evans (0990 99111), for a ribbed fitted camisole (£16), lace-trimmed jersey sleeveless top in pastels (£18) or classic black and white polyester sheersing camisole (£11), all suitable to wear under jackets for more formal occasions, or with lace or crocheted cardigans for a softer evening feel.

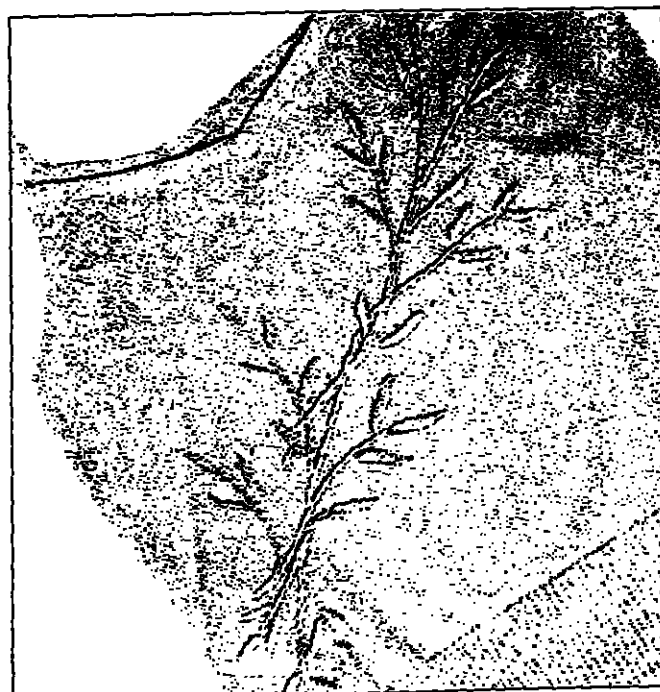
For those who don't mind baring their undies, Freemans (0800 7319731) stocks a wide range of camisole tops that are good enough to wear out on the streets: Calvin Klein micro-vests with built-in bra cups (no-seam model, £29), Warehouse lace stretch tops (£13 for two) or cropped cotton halter tops for sylph-like creatures with high chests and flat stomachs (£10 for two).

Or for fans of classic cuts, Next (0345 100500) stocks a silver grey wool "dress-makers top" with back zip and a black lace shell top (both £34.99) for evening; and Grattan (0345 444333) does a Biba one-shoulder black top (£36.99), a Morgan V-neck ribbed navy top (£29.99) and a pack of two spaghetti-strap styles (£16.99) which will not date.

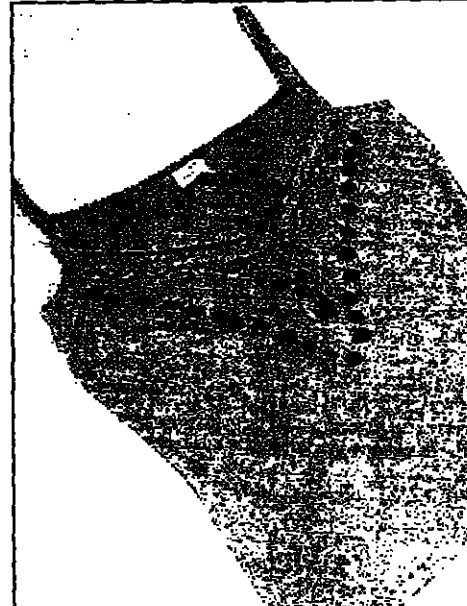
As the footballers showed this week when removing their national strip, however, vests look best on those who have spent time keeping their bodies in shape. Vests are tiny, and show up even the slightest imperfections: whether that is rounded shoulders, flabby arms or a less than upright chest. They were made for those who are slight and fit, not for those who are untoned, and should not be worn to impress unless you are confident that your body is up to it. As Gascoigne found out to his cost: if you look unfit and out of shape, you get dropped.



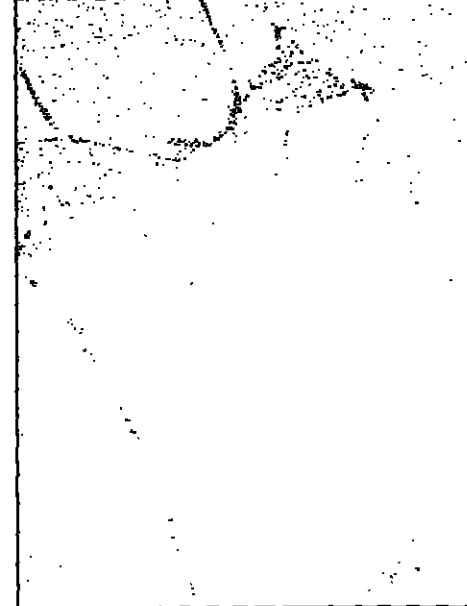
Black sheer vest, £55, Helmut Lang, Brown Focus, 38-40 South Moulton Street, W1 (0171-629 0666)



Grey embroidered fine knit vest, £49.95, Press & Bastyan, 22 South Moulton Street, W1 (inquiries 01622 763211)



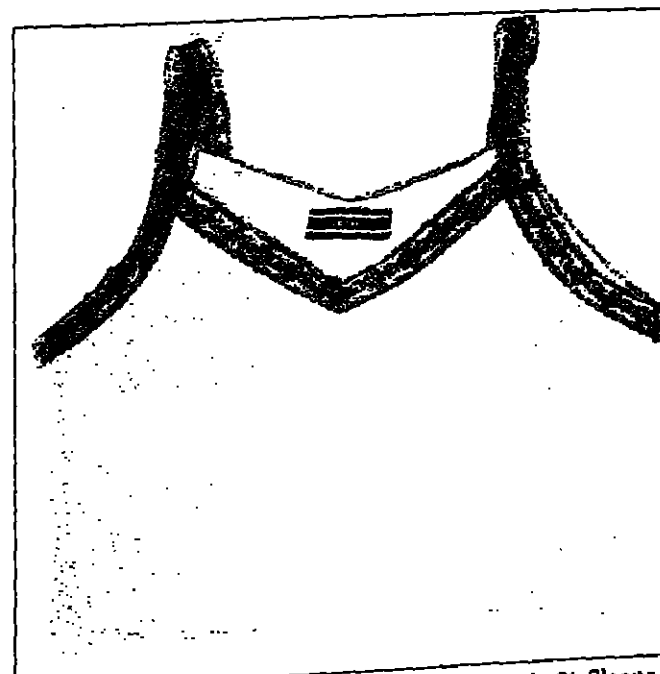
Purple cashmere vest with black sequins, £312, Clements Ribeiro, Tokio, 309 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-823 7310)



Pink fine rib cotton and lace vest, £10, Sam Green, Urban Outfitters, 36-38 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-761 1001)



Burgundy knit vest with sequins, £69.95, Karen Millen, branches nationwide (01622 664031)



Orange vest with chocolate lace trim, £59, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-590 6200)



THREE OF A KIND

Not everyone wants to, or can, go bra-less in the latest skimpy vests. For that extra bit of support, here are three of the best strapless bras. LG

LEFT: Black lace strapless bra, £18.99, Gossard (01525 851122). MIDDLE: White satin and lace strapless bra, £13, Knickerbox, branches nationwide (0171-284 1744).

RIGHT: White satin strapless bra, £20, Wonderbra, department stores nationwide (0800 362430)

Photographs by ANNA STEVENSON. Hair and make-up by Sammy Jackson using Bourjois make-up and Fudge hair products. Styling by Amandip Uppal.



Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

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The Times Cook

Local cook books are often the best holiday guides, so use one when planning your next holiday

Good cookery books are often the best guide books to a holiday destination. *The Food and Cookery of Malta* by Anne and Helen Caruana Galizia (Prospect Books, 01803 712269, £12.50) is no exception. It includes fish found in Maltese waters, local names for the fruit and vegetables in the markets and a fine collection of classic Maltese and Gozitan recipes, together with the history of these small islands, which goes a long way to explain their rich culinary heritage. It is a timely book, for even now books on the food of the Mediterranean tend to ignore Maltese cooking.

If cook books make the best guides, then the best way to experience your holiday destination is by self-catering — you will quickly learn which dark doorway leads to the bakery and the butcher. Much has changed in Gozo since I first visited the island. The dairy now produces skimmed milk and mozzarella, as well as the small fresh cheeses, called *gbejniet*, for the usual short growing season. Basil and mint are plentiful in the market; fennel, thyme, rocket and pennyroyal grow wild, and hand-fuls can be used to perfume fish soups and other dishes.

The classic Maltese fish soup is the *ajotta* which, as its name suggests, is also replete of garlic. Fish can be bought from vans which go from village to village; occasionally from the quayside, as the brightly coloured *luzzi* unload their catch; from the fish stalls in the market square in Victoria; or, best of all, from Bugeja's shop on Mgarr Road in Ghajnsielem.

This is where Jane Bugeja, her father and brothers sell prime fish. The first morning we visited, a spiny lobster shared pride of place on the display with some seabass, tuna and swordfish. There were fresh prawns, octopus, squid and cuttlefish, which suggested to me fish soup. And there, for 65p a kilo, was a box of small "rock" fish, a mixture of hake, red mullet, scorpion fish and others, ideal for the *ajotta*.

Sunday lunch in Gozo is often a *timpana* or *ros fil-form*, cooked in the baker's oven after the bread has been baked. These are hearty dishes, the first a macaroni and meat pie, the second baked rice with meat. While at Razzett Maya, I cooked some of the dishes from the Caruana sisters' book, and we particularly liked the Gozitan pork and pumpkin pie.

Without scales or rolling pin, my pastry was a bit of an improvisation. I took half a kilo bag of flour and used 125g of sunflower margarine, and the same of mascarpone, making a pie big enough to fill the village. The recipe below is more orthodox.

A simple first course is best before any of these substantial baked dishes. I like to make a salad which combines raw and cooked vegetables. This retains an appetising crispness, but the warm vegetables release delicious juices over the tomatoes, which in turn yield their sweet fragrance.

Be guided by what is in the market, but tomatoes are essential. Carrots or young kohlrabi are a good idea; these should be peeled and thinly sliced and put to one side. Tomatoes should be halved and their pulp spooned into a sieve over



Frances Bissell

til barely cooked. Tip into a sieve and then spread it out on a tray or baking sheet to cool quickly.

Meanwhile, fry the onion until golden brown, add the pork and brown it lightly. Stir in the garlic and pumpkin, the herbs, wine, seasoning and grated zest of a lemon. Add the carob syrup, if using it, a splash of Worcester sauce and a dash of bitters. A nice twist is to replace the former with a teaspoon of honey.

Partially cover and simmer until the pork and onions are tender, which takes about 45 minutes to an hour.

Spoon this mixture on to a tray to cool it, then refrigerate it until required. If you spoon a warm filling into an uncooked pastry shell, it will melt the fat in it too soon and make it soggy.

Roll out just over half the pastry and use it to line a rectangular oven-proof dish, lightly greased and floured first.

Mix the rice and pork, then spoon into the pastry case. Remove the bay leaves. Roll out the remaining pastry and cover the pie, sealing the edges well.

Bake in a pre-heated oven for 15 minutes at 220C, gas mark 7, and then for a further 10-15 minutes at 180C, gas mark 4.

Serve this dish hot with a fresh green salad.

THE PERFECT SUMMER PUDDING

NOTHING captures the flavour of summer better than this uniquely English pudding. When there is a glut of fruit, it is worth making extras in lidded, plastic Christmas-pudding containers and freezing them.

INGREDIENTS: For each pudding you'll need a heaped basinful of fruit; redcurrants and raspberries are essential, as are blackcurrants and gooseberries, but strawberries and cherries are not so good. You'll also need sugar and several slices of firm white bread with crusts removed.

METHOD: Tip the fruit into a saucepan, the gooseberries before the others if using them. Sprinkle with sugar, add 2-3 tablespoons of water and cook gently for a few minutes before adding the rest of the fruit and barely cooking. Just until the juices run. Add more sugar as necessary. Cut each slice of bread into two wedges, dip in the juice and line the bottom and sides of the pudding basin. Spoon in the fruit, top with more bread and a little more juice to fully soak the bread. Cover, weight the top and leave for 24 hours. Turn out and serve with the rest of the juice and cream.

Next week: The perfect cucumber sandwich

For further information about Gozo farmhouses, contact Malta National Tourism Office (0171 292 4000)

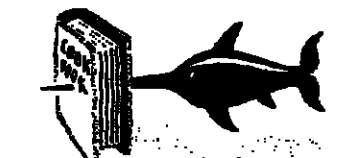
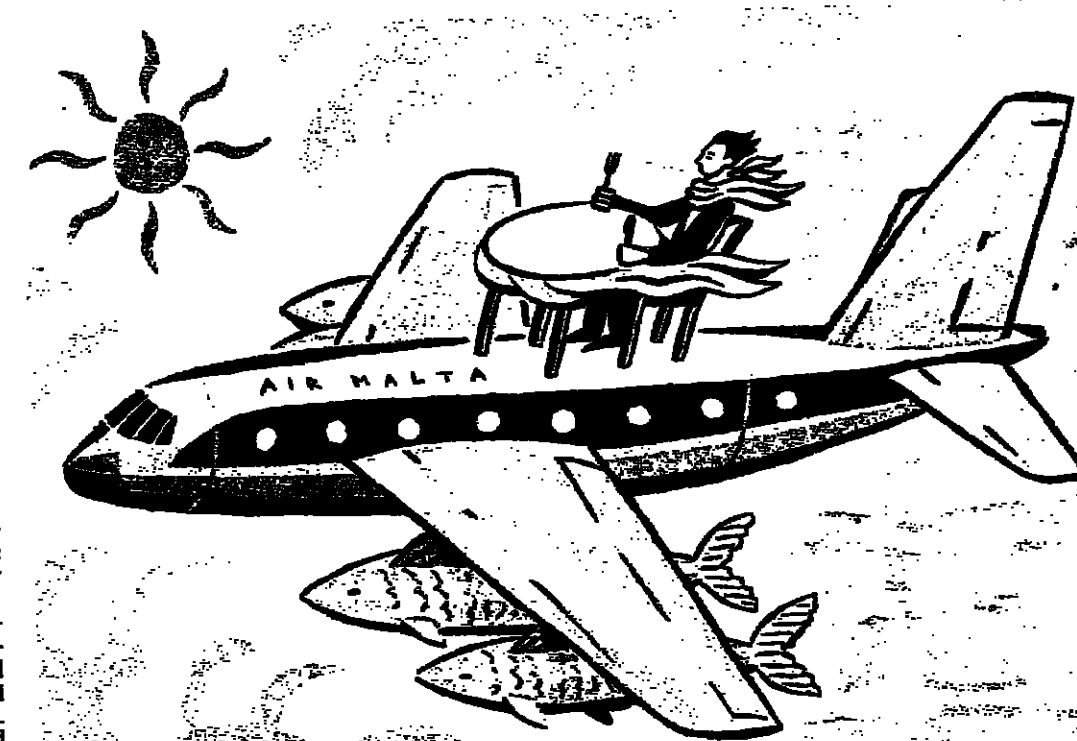
© Frances Bissell

Next week: Cajun country

- Gozitan pork and pumpkin pie — Torta ta-*malgħaj* bil-*qara* *shamar***
Serves 6
300 to 350g long grain rice
- 1 large onion, peeled and chopped
 - 2tbsp extra virgin olive oil
 - 500g minced pork
 - Cloves of garlic, peeled and chopped
 - 500g pumpkin, peeled and diced
 - 1tbsp each chopped mint, parsley and marjoram
 - 2tbsp celery, finely chopped
 - 2 bay leaves
 - 1 glass white or red wine
 - Salt, pepper, lemon zest
 - 1tsp carob syrup (optional)
 - 500g puff, flaky or shortcrust pastry
- Cook the rice in just under twice its volume of water, lightly salted, until barely cooked. Tip into a sieve and then spread it out on a tray or baking sheet to cool quickly.

Maltese fish soup — *ajotta*

- Serves 6
- 1kg fish or fish bones and pieces
 - Stalk of celery
 - Sprigs of fennel and parsley
 - 2 heads garlic, separated
 - 6-8 ripe tomatoes
 - 1 large mild onion, peeled and sliced
 - 1 large potato (optional) diced
 - 2tbsp extra virgin olive oil
 - 1tbsp each chopped mint, parsley and marjoram
 - Salt
 - Pepper
 - 1 or 2 medium squid, cleaned and cut into rings
 - 500g prawns, shelled — use the shells in the stock
 - 6 small portions fish (optional) — cod or monkfish
- Put the fish, celery, fennel, parsley, garlic and tomatoes in a large



which were originally made on the farms. Old farmhouses have been renovated to provide cool and airy homes, which can be rented. I recently stayed in Razzett Maya in Santa Lucia. It is on one of the highest points of the island, even looking down on the Citadel in Victoria. The kitchen equipment was basic, which led me to draw up this list of essentials for the keen cook to take, as a travelling *barriere de cuisine*: a small sieve, a sharp knife and a potato peeler. One might also add rubber gloves, an apron, ground coffee and coffee filters, loose tea and a mosquito plug and pellets.

But some things have not changed. The fruit and vegetables are still as good as those Elizabeth David found when she was in Malta, where she learnt to cook under the tutelage of Angela, her sister's Maltese cook. Strawberries are now grown on a commercial scale on Gozo, albeit

CONSUMING INTERESTS: CREAM

The proper question to ask about cream is not "is it worth the money?" but "is it worth the cholesterol count and calories?" My answer would be: this stuff is definitely not to die for. Most of it is pallid and neutral, diluting the flavour experience. I try to limit consumption to dotted cream, and even that is often not what it was or what it should be. Best advice must be: use little and then only the best. **ROBIN YOUNG**



- Tesco Fresh Extra Thick Double Cream Pasteurised**
£1.89 for 284ml
Claims: "Delicious spooned over fruits and desserts."
Verdict: Puggy, pneumatic and decidedly off-putting texture, rather neutral and negligible. No star.
- Loseley Fresh Pasteurised Double Jersey Cream**
95p for 142ml from Harrods
Claims: "48 per cent fat."
Verdict: Pouring cream with smooth texture and fuller flavour than any other in the trial. ★ ★ ★
- Asda Extra Thick Fresh Double Pasteurised Cream**
83p for 284ml
Claims: Specially for spooning.
Verdict: Some mistake here? The indifferent cream was runny, and no thicker than most people's pouring cream. No star.
- St Michael Fresh Extra Thick Double Cream**
99p for 340ml until July 4 and then 99p for 284ml
Claims: "20 per cent extra for the same price. Improved taste. 48 per cent fat. Consume within two days of opening."
Verdict: With labelling in French, Dutch, Spanish and German this cream is plainly meant to maintain the honour of British dairy products abroad. It was fourth best for flavour. ★ ★
- Safeway Fresh Extra Thick Double Cream Pasteurised**
56p for 142ml
Claims: "Recommended uses:
- Morrisons Pasteurised Extra Thick Double Cream**
89p for 284ml
Claims: Quality and value.
Verdict: Texture and appearance of non-drip paint, with some tendency to separate. Flavour bland. ★
- J&E Dickinson Longley Farm Luxury Jersey Cream**
£1.65 for 271ml from Selfridges
Claims: "Extra rich. Drawing on 50 years of dairying experience, we have chosen milk from Jersey herds to give our luxury cream its distinctive colour, consistency and taste. Spoon from the pot or stir gently for a smooth and pourable consistency."
Verdict: 52 per cent fat, but the texture was frothy and the flavour not as well-rounded as the Loseley. ★ ★ ★
- Sainsbury's Fresh Extra Thick Double Cream**
£1.95 for 565ml
Claims: "This pack contains approximately 20 servings. Per 30ml dessert spoon 134 calories and 14.3g fat. Consume within three days of opening."
Verdict: Satisfactory texture and fullest flavour of the non-Jersey creams. ★ ★ ★
- Somerfield Fresh Pasteurised Double Cream**
75p for 284ml
Claims: "Suitable for pouring, cooking and whipping."
Verdict: I wouldn't bother. Ordinary in the extreme. ★
- Co-op Fresh Pasteurised Extra Thick Double Cream**
99p for 284ml
Claims: "48 per cent fat. Average per tablespoon 67 calories, 7.1g fat."
Verdict: Flip-top carton with supplementary clear plastic tab, well-designed and useful. Off-white creamy colour, very firm texture, clear, uncluttered flavour. ★
- Waitrose Fresh Extra Thick Double Cream**
£1.05 for 284ml
Claims: "Minimum 48 per cent butter fat."
Verdict: Wet-looking blanchange-like appearance.

Non to the revolution

The French are in a stew about the invasion of foreign food, says Joe Warwick



French chef Paul Bocuse successfully sued McDonald's for £1.5m for using his likeness

If Alan Shearer were French he'd be considered a villain in certain circles of Gallic society, despite his footballing talent. Not because the current advertising campaign he is involved in pokes fun at Eric Cantona, but because he has been bought by that enemy of French cuisine, McDonald's.

The television advertisement which parodies Cantona's endorsement of Eurostar has Shearer cod-philosophising on the aroma of the burger and fries being consumed in the seat behind him. "Will the food in France smell as sweet as the Big Mac in that bag?" he asks.

To ask such a question, even in jest, is enough to make French blood boil. That Fifa has named McDonald's as the "official restaurant" of the World Cup has upset the five associations which represent French chefs and restaurateurs to such a degree that they have put aside their differences to issue a joint declaration: "It has been known from the time of the Emperor Vespasian that money has no smell; thanks to the World Cup, we also know that it has no taste."

Protestors have picketed outside branches of McDonald's in Paris. Sylvia Bassot of France's national assembly has claimed that: "It is an outrage to our national cuisine." While the French resistance to what the declaration refers to as "hamburger imperialism" and their total opposition to the possibility that hamburgers and ketchup they import one bottle of Heinz's every two seconds could be seen as the true representation of French cooking is predictable, the uproar is indicative of a deeper and more important culinary debate within France.

New Yorkers Tim and Tina Zagat who publish the Zagat restaurant guides to American and Canadian cities as well as London, encountered a similar, if less dramatic, cultural

resistance when they launched their Paris guide. "The French are so sensitive to matters relating to food that we thought that there would be a debate about the idea in the beginning," says Mr Zagat. "Once it was announced that the book was ready, a couple of people in Paris started writing of 'Le guide: Hamburger.' The book which, like all Zagat's guides, is based on surveys filled in by customers, takes in the full spectrum of Paris's restaurants from bistros to Michelin-starred temples of gastronomy — it is far from a list of hamburger joints.

The contempt that its publication generated in some quarters Mr Zagat ascribes to "this feeling that because we were Americans we were somehow coming to take over their country. This despite the fact that 96 per cent of the people who participated in the survey were French and, of the remaining four per cent, only one per cent were Americans."

The French Culinary Writers' association regarded the guide as a scandal because they said it was the opposite of a guide. They said it should be one person who guides everybody else," says Mr Zagat.

The resistance to foreign influences does not stop with multinational burger chains and punter-penned restaurant reviews. It encompasses a debate about what should flavour French food itself. Should French cuisine embrace new ingredients such as soy sauce and lemon grass?

The culinary traditionalists led by Joel Robuchon and Alain Ducasse stated their case two years ago: "The tendency to mix everything with anything on a plate in the effort to give the illusion of innovation at any price." Last month their protectionist philosophy encouraged a response from Christian Conticini. Leader of a progressive association called *Cooking and Cooks*, he sees it as his duty to seek out new recipes, new ingredients and be bold.

Conticini argues that for centuries French cooking has incorporated spices and recipes from around the world and asks, "Why stop now?" Michel Bourdin, head chef at the Connaught hotel, London, thinks that the argument between the chefs is nothing new and is a typical French malaise. "The problem is ego, nothing has changed," he says. "Classical French cuisine is like the basis of music for gastronomy... but there are different types of music what is the difference with food?"

He can't see the globalisation that the back-to-basics lobby fear ever happening. "A chef has to adapt, he doesn't cook to please himself, he cooks to please the public. Customers don't go to restaurants to please the chef but rather themselves," he reasons.

So while the chefs fight over what to cook and the politicians and culinary establishment attack fast food, it is the French public who will decide whether to eat burgers, bean sprouts or bouillabaisse.

ZAGATSURVEY.

1998/99 PARIS RESTAURANTS

imaginative French cuisine — at break-the-bank prices.

3. *Ambroisie* (L), 9, place des Vosges, 41cme (Bastille/St-Paul). "A dream to dine but often a nightmare to book (call months ahead) but service is impersonal."

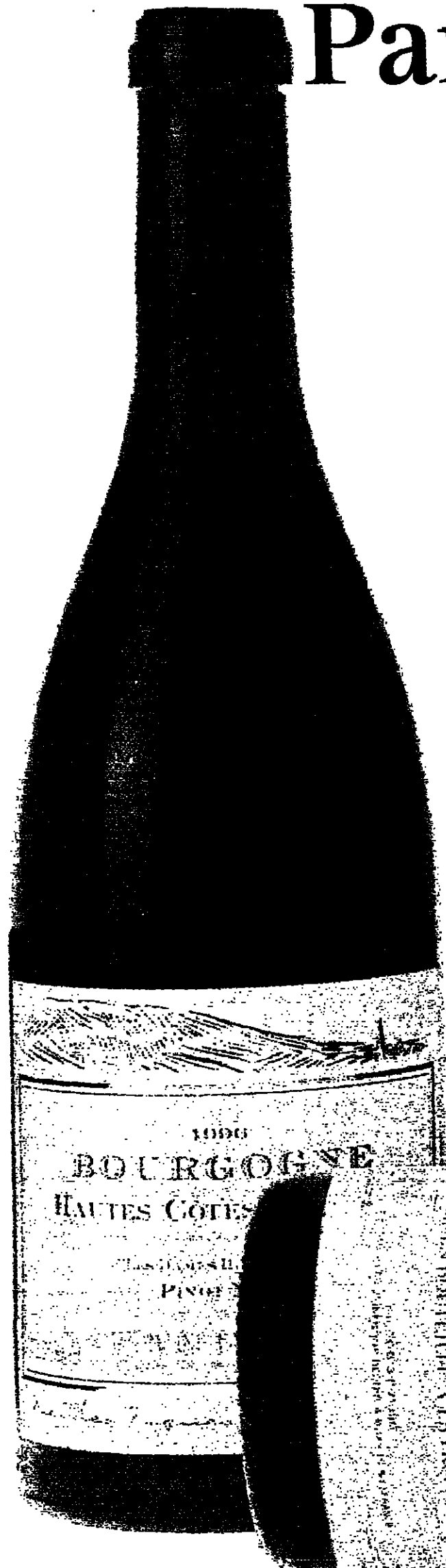
4. *Grand Venise* (Le), 17, rue de Beaujolais, 1er (Palais-Royal). "A celebration on the plate. In the glass, if you are ready to pay the price."

5. *Lucas Carton*, 9, place de la Madeleine, 81cme (St-Lazare/Villiers). "High temple of gastronomy; incredibly expensive but lovely."

© The Zagat Paris guide is available from July 1, priced £7.99.

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Part 3: 20 wines under £7.50



JANE MACQUITTY
100
BEST SUMMER WINES

Feeling like a treat? Try Jane MacQuitty's mid-range selection

STAR RED

1996 Bourgogne, Hautes-Côtes de Nuits, Les Dames Huguettes, Domaine Bertagna, France, Sainsbury's, down £1 to £5.99 for today only; £6.99 tomorrow

Bargain-basement burgundy does not exist. But this utterly delicious Bourgogne rouge from the outlying Hautes-Côtes de Nuits region in the hills above Nuits St Georges, made by the impressive Domaine Bertagna, restored by Englishman Mark Siddle and his wife Eva, gets pretty close. Judicious oak ageing, 25-year-old vines and a good red burgundy year, with the new Siddle regime, have turned this into an elegant, gamy, perfumed pinot noir with the scent of roses and the kind of ripe, rich, leaf-mould finish that Côte d'Or devotees like myself cannot get enough of. It should sell out in seconds.

STAR WHITE

1996 Montagny 1er Cru, Buxy, France, Waitrose, £7.25

A good white burgundy from a top year like this one still represents the zenith for many white wine drinkers. But with choice Côte d'Or bottles fetching £15 plus, the search is on for reasonably priced alternatives. This magnificent premier cru Montagny, from the excellent Buxy co-operative, in the Côte Chalonnaise, south of the Côte d'Or, oozes with the ripe, juicy, hazelnut and glacé fruit elegance that white burgundy fans so admire.

1997 Menetou-Salon Morogues, Clos de Ratier, Domaine Henry Pellé, France, Oddbins, £6.99

This 1997 wine completes a hat-trick of Top 100 vintages for this stylish sancerre satellite producer. The wines, made at Morogues, the best village in the appellation, continue to taste as good as the real thing for several pounds less. Chalky soil, steep, south-west slopes and three generations of Pellé expertise explain why this white currant, nettle and gooseberry-stashed sauvignon blanc is so good.

1997 Domaines Laroche Chablis, Vieilles Vignes, Saint Martin, France, Majestic, down 50p to £7.49 until August 3

Natural fermentation using the wild yeasts present on grape-skins is the new claim on wine labels, just as "uncoated" was a while back. Initially, New World producers made the most noise about this, but now the old guard are joining in. So, welcome to this elegant, oaky chablis made from 30-year-old vines whose leafy-green style and cheesy finish makes a fine aperitif or fishy first-course white.

1996 Château Tudin, Bordeaux Blanc, Cuvée Prestige, Gineset, France, Victoria Wine, £5.99

Regular white bordeaux drinkers will recognise this stunning wine, principally a two-thirds semillon to one-third sauvignon blend, aged in new American oak barrels, which has been sold here before under a different label. The 1996 vintage is even finer than previous years and its pretty green-yellow colour and delicious, toasted, green-gage-rich fruit makes it one of the best new-wave whites from the Entre-Deux-Mers.

WHITES



1996 Villa Flora Lugana, Zenato, Italy, Waitrose, £5.25

Every summer selection, regardless of price, needs a thirst-quenching white whose elegant floral, verdant, juicy fruit will slip down with few cerebral demands. This lively Italian white, made from the humdrum trebbiano grape, grown just south of Lake Garda, neatly fits the not-much-more-than-a-five bill.

1997 Armand Riesling, Kabinett, Weingut Reichsrat von Buhl, Germany, Majestic, £6.99

Gathering oomph and elegance with every vintage, the new team at this traditionally renowned Pfalz estate is a beacon of quality in a German wine region best known as the home of liebfraumilch. This floral, tongue-tingling '97 — superior to the flatter Armand '96 — with lots of elegant, steely, lemon and lime-spiked fruit, balanced by gentle acidity, makes an invigorating mid-morning or mid-afternoon wine.

1997 Annie's Lane, Clare Valley Riesling, Australia, Oddbins, £6.99

The Clare Valley continues to be one of South Australia's prime wine regions, providing vintage after vintage of thrilling, fruit-charged wines. This juicy Oddbins riesling is no exception and its soft, grapey spice, complete with an exotic tropical fruit-scented finish, reminiscent of lychees, makes it a good aperitif.

1996 Australian Classic Selection Chardonnay, Thomas Hardy & Sons, Sainsbury's, £5.99

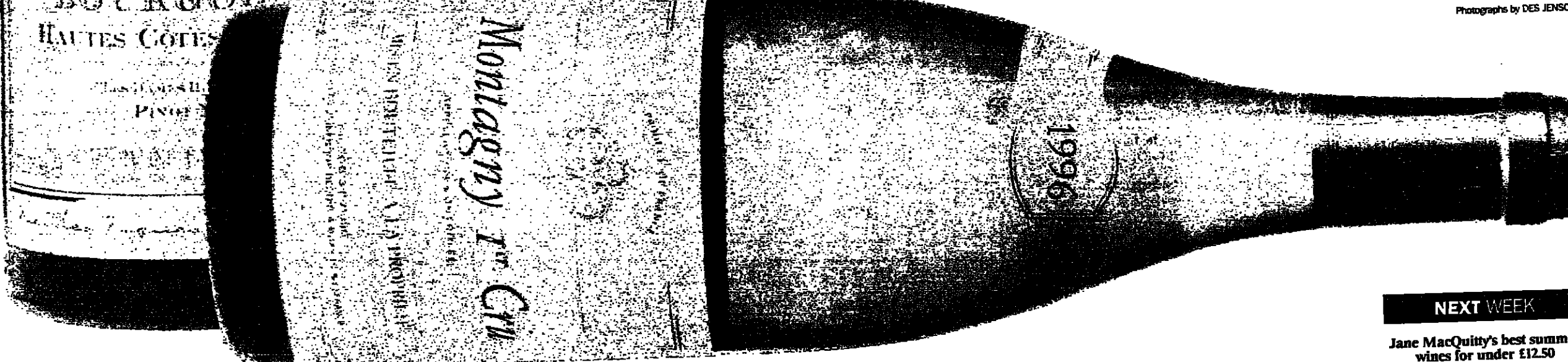
Summer is the season for big, bold, toasty Aussie chardonnays like this blend, specially prepared for Sainsbury's. I have admired it for several seasons. Enjoy its robust, sweet, sunny style, full of creamy, nutty, spicy oak, with everything from viet-lotonnato to barbecued chicken.



1996 Grand Ardèche Chardonnay, Vin de Pays des Coteaux de l'Ardèche, Louis Latour, France, Majestic, £6.99; Stones of Belgravia, £8.95

As a rule, I dislike the wet dog and wet straw-scented whites of the Rhône and equally, it is unusual to find a traditional burgundy merchant who shines outside his home territory. Yet, for almost a decade Latour has produced impressive Ardèche chardonnays, and this assertive, buttered toast-styled bottle is a superior white to serve with barbecued fish.

Photographs by DES JENSON



NEXT WEEK

Jane MacQuitty's best summer wines for under £12.50

REDS



1996 Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune, Grand Cuvée, Les Caves des Hautes-Côtes, France, Tesco, £6.99

Tesco, like all supermarkets, changes suppliers willy-nilly. But for the past few years the admirable Caves des Hautes-Côtes has provided them with consistently good red burgundy that knocks spots off the competition. This ripe, full '96 continues the theme and its delicious, sweet, juicy, beetrooty taste has the firm, plummy, assertively acidic finish that the first mild game and garlicky summer charcuterie need.

1995 Château la Prade, Côtes de Francs, Patrick Valette, Bordeaux, France, The Wine Society, Gunwells Wood Road, Stevenage, Herts, £6.70

If I had to name one Bordeaux satellite region that had plenty of untapped potential to make great

claret, it would be the Côtes de Francs. Fine clarets like this 80 per cent merlot to 20 per cent cabernet sauvignon version from the superb 1995 vintage, display the pleasing, plummy, farmyard characteristics of right-bank claret, overlaid with an elegant, sappy oak finish that needs heavy summer food to show it at its best.

1996 Château l'Euzière, Coteaux du Languedoc, Pic St Loup, Marcelle et Michel Causse, France, Liberty Wine, Unit A53, The Food Market, New Covent Garden, London SW8, £7.30

The Languedoc, where innovative, cutting-edge methods are the norm, continues to shine. This glorious red, a canny, syrah-based blend, topped up with a dollop each of grenache and mourvèdre, is typical of the best. It is heaving with inky, violet-scented fruit with a fine, velvety, plummy finish.

1995 Vigne Antique Barrique-Aged Syrah, Vin de Pays d'Oc, France, Marks and Spencer, £6.99

The superior red wine partner to last week's VA Chardonnay is this impressive, sweet, soft, easy, black pepper and blackberry jam-stashed wine. It is made from low-yielding syrah grapes given a short stint in new French and American oak barrels.

1996 Chianti Classico, Rocca di Castagnoli, Fattoria di Capraia, Italy, Victoria Wine, £6.99

Decent chianti is thin on the ground, so well done Victoria Wine for snapping up this fine example of the classic, juicy, violet-scented and cherry-charged Tuscan red. Like all good chianti classico, this bouncy black and red fruit-styled bottle finishes with a pleasing snap of bitterness. Serve with fancy salamis and sausages.

1996 Thomas Mitchell Shiraz, Australia, Victoria Wine, £5.99; Oddbins, £5.79

Onwards and upwards for Mitchelton, now part of the Petaluma stable. What you get from this amazingly hefty, 13 per cent alcohol, sandalwood, mint and eucalyptus-styled shiraz is the glorious, full-frontal Aussie fruit so admired by British drinkers, with an intriguing, oak-derived, oriental spicy finish.

1997 Fairview Zinfandel-Cinsaut, Charles Back, Sth Africa, Asda and Oddbins, £5.49; Adnams, £6.40

Almost, but not quite the star red, this sensational, sweet, elegant, silky, bramble and plum-layered wine is the best new Cape red I have tasted this year from one of the best vintages South Africa has seen. It is blessed with upfront, luscious, spicy, oaky fruit that makes Old World wine producers envious.

ROSE

1997 Château de Sours, Bordeaux Rosé, France, Majestic and Wine Cellar, £5.99; Tanners, 26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, £7

Esmé Johnstone's best rosé vintage yet has created a brilliant cherry-pink wine that is as flavoursome as it is pretty. Far removed from the standard flabby, mouth-wash pinks, this merlot-based rosé oozes with vibrant, red currant fruit and finishes on a zingy, yet firm herbaceous note.



SWEET WINE

1996 James Halliday, Griffith Botrytis Semillon, Australia, half bottles, Oddbins, £6.99

I first tasted this seductive wine from Australia's top botrytis semillon region with James Halliday and was bowled over by its quality. Australia makes plenty of glorious pudding wines. The pity is we see so few. Tuck in while you can to this crystallised, fruit-layered wine with a sweet apricot and lychee-licked palate.

FORTIFIED WINE

Deliciosa Manzanilla Sherry, A R Valdespino, Spain, Oddbins Fine Wine, £6.49; Lea & Sandeman, £6.95

I continue to grumble at the lack of decently alcoholic and flavoursome sherries available. Valdespino is one of the few sherry houses that understands that less alcohol equals less flavour, and this *tour de force*, 16.5 per cent alcohol manzanilla, with its gloriously tangy, punchy, yeasty iodine and sea salt-charged taste, is the best bone-dry sherry on sale here.

AN EVENING WITH JANE MACQUITTY

- Readers are invited to a wine tasting dinner tutored by Jane MacQuitty at The Park Restaurant at Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London SW1, at 7.30pm on Thursday, July 9.
- The three-course menu, including a R de Ruinart Brut champagne reception and all wines, is priced at £59 per person.
- For a reservation call Takka Bartels or Sandy Strutt on 0171-235 2000.

IN FRANCE, A BOTTLE OF

CHAMPAGNE

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THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE BEST SALES

Time to shop till you drop again

Midsummer madness is upon us again and there are plenty of hot bargains around

the country. Deborah King compiles a round-up of the best deals on offer

PAUL LEITH



Debenhams 334-348 Oxford Street, W1 and branches nationwide (0171-408 4444). From July 7.

Fenwick New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161) and branches nationwide. Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off many items throughout the store.

Harrods 87 Brompton Road, SW1 (0171-730 1234). From July 8. Huge reductions throughout the store.

Harvey Nichols 109-125 Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5000). From Wednesday. Up to 50 per cent off many items.

House of Fraser Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 5432); Dickins & Jones, Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 7070); D.H. Evans, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 8900) and stores nationwide (0171-963 2236). From Friday.

John Lewis Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 7711); Brent Cross Shopping Centre (0181-202 6535); Peter Jones, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 3434) and 23 stores nationwide. From July 14-25; call 0171-629 7711 to find which date is correct for your nearest branch.

Liberty 214-220 Regent Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-734 1234). Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store.

Selfridges Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 1234). From Thursday with special preview on Wednesday for Account Card holders. Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store.

Bentalls High Street, Bracknell, Berkshire (01344 43678); Broadway Centre, Ealing, London W5 (0181-567 3040); Wood Street, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey (0181-546 1001); The Angel Centre, Tonbridge, Kent (01732 77177); 19-23 South Street, Worthing, West Sussex (01905 231801). General inquiries 0181-546 2002. Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off most lines.

Denmers High Street, Yeovil, Somerset (01935 44444). Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off men's and women's fashions and household goods.

Hoopers The Promenade, Cheltenham (01242 52705); North Street, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 533103); The Strand, Torquay (01803 212754); Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells (01892 532022); Hoopers for Men, The Great Hall, Tunbridge Wells (01892 529223) and Alderley Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire (01625 525381); Allerton Road, Bradford (01274 491311); James Street, Harrogate (01423 504091). For further details freecall 0800 318216. From Friday to Aug 1. Reductions of up to 50 per cent.

FASHION

Amanda Wakeley 80 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-584 4009). From Thursday to Aug 1. Up to 90 per cent off samples.

Aquascutum 100 Regent Street, W1 (0800 282022). Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off selected fashion lines.

Armando Pollini 35 Brook Street, W1 (0171-629 7606). Sale now on. Reductions of up to 50 per cent.

Austin Reed 48 branches nationwide (0800 595479). From July 9 for six weeks. Up to 50 per cent off selected items.

Bertie 36 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-493 5033); 26 branches nationwide. Inquiries 0171-935 2002. Sale now on. Many items at half price.

Bhs 252-253 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-262 3288); 139 branches nationwide. Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off selected items across all departments.

Burberry 18-22 Haymarket, SW1; 165 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 4060). Sale now on. Between 30 and 50 per cent off selected items.

Burton Branches nationwide (0171-291 2511). From Tuesday. Many lines up to a third off.

C & A Branches nationwide (0171-629 1244). From Thursday. Up to 50 per cent discount on clothing throughout the store.

Chanel 26 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-493 5040); 31 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 6631). From Thursday. Minimum of 30 per cent off the ready-to-wear 1998 spring/summer collection and selected items from the 1996/7 spring/summer collection of handbags.

Country Casuals 1-5 Poland Street, W1 (0171-287 5181); branches nationwide (0121-212 2405). Sale now on. Reductions of up to 50 per cent. White embroidered sleeveless top down from £99 to £39, almond floral print dress down from £99 to £49.

Diesel 55 Argyl Street, WCI (0171-497 5543). From July 2. Up to 30 per cent off selected items.

DKNY 27 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8089). Sale now on. Discounts of 30 per cent throughout the store.

Donna Karan 19 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-495 3100). Sale now on. Discounts on all items.

Dorothy Perkins Branches nationwide (0171-291 2604). Sale now on. Reductions from 15 to 50 per cent.

Emporio Armani 91 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-823 8818); 57-59 Long Acre, WC2 (0171-917 6882); 112a New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 8080); 84-86 King Street, Manchester (0161-639 8789); 19 John Street, The Italian Centre, Glasgow (0141-552 2277). From Monday. Reductions of 30 per cent and 50 per cent off selected items.

Episode 172 Regent Street, W1 (0171-439 3561) and branches nationwide (0171-589 4279). Sale now on. Reductions of between 30 and 40 per cent.

French Connection 249 Regent Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-580 2507). Sale now on. Up to 30 per cent off selected items. Slip dress was £50, now £35, stretch tunic trousers from £75 to £50.

Gant 17-19 Brompton Road, SW3 and 107 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 3313). From Wednesday for three weeks. At least 30 per cent off selected items; up to 50 per cent off as the sale progresses.

Georges Rech 181-182 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 3343). Sale now on. Twenty to 30 per cent discount.

Giorgio Armani 37 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 6232). Sale now on. Reductions of up to 30 per cent.

Gieves & Hawkes 1 Savile Row, W1 (0171-434 2001); 18 Lime Street, EC3 (0171-283 4914). Stores in Bath, Chester and Winchester. Sale now on. Jacket was £350, now £195; casual shirts from £75 to £39.

H&M Hennes 261-271 Regent Street, W1 (0171-495 4003). Other branches: Brent Cross, Marble Arch, Kingston upon Thames, Harrow, Croydon, Watford, Wimbledon and nationwide. Inquiries: (0171-255 2031). Sale now on. Discounts up to 50 per cent.

Hermès 179 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823

1014). From July 25 to Aug 1. Reductions of 40 to 60 per cent on items including its silk print shirts and men's coats and jackets in autumnal colours.

Holland & Holland 31-33 Bruton Street, W1; 170-171 Sloane Street, SW1. Inquiries 0171-499 4411. Sale now on. A range of merchandise from current season and autumn/winter 97/98 range. Beige linen shirt dress was £185, now £111. Men's linen jacket down from £475 to £285.

Jaeger 200-206 Regent Street, W1 (0171-200 4000), 100 stores nationwide. Inquiries 0171-200 4211. Sale now on. Discounts of up to 50 per cent. Jaeger black pinstripe jacket reduced from £340 to £169, flared trousers from £120 to £50, navy sleeveless double layer dress from £170 to £90.

Joseph 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 5470); 23 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 5123); 77 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-823 9500); 74 Sloane Avenue, SW3 (0171-591 0808). Sale now on. Reductions start at 30 per cent off. Suede shirt was £310, now £217. Men's wear: 30 per cent off classic trousers and ribbed cotton sweaters.

Karen Millen Branches nationwide (01622 664032). Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent discount.

Kingshill Mail Order For copies of the Kingshill British Designer Collections catalogue and the Diffusion catalogues, call (01494 890555). Sale starts from Wednesday. Reductions of up to 50 per cent.

Koh Samui 65 Monmouth Street, WC2 (0171-240 4250). From July 4 for three weeks. Reductions of up to 50 per cent.

Kookai 123 Kensington High Street, W8; 25 branches nationwide. Inquiries 0171-937 4411. Sale starts from Thursday for four weeks. At least 30 per cent off stock. Snake-print long dress down from £49.99 to £34.99.

Lillywhites 24-26 Regent Street, SW1 (0171-915 4000). Eight branches nationwide. Sale now on. Discounts on many lines.

Margaret Howell 24 Brook Street, W1 (0171-495 4888); 29 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (0171-584 2462); 36 Savile Row, W1 (0171-437 2349). From July 4. Discounts from 30 to 50 per cent on selected items.

Marks & Spencer Marble Arch, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-935 7951); 289 branches nationwide. Inquiries 0171-935 4422. Sale starts Tuesday.

MaxMara 32 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 7411). Sale starts July 4. Discounts of between 20 and 40 per cent.

Miss Selfridge Branches nationwide. Inquiries (0181-910 1350) or (0171-938 4182). Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off. Knitted V-neck jumper was £15, now £5; long blue skirt was £25, now £15; pink frock dress was £35, now £15.

Monsoon Branches nationwide (0171-313 3070). Sale begins mid July. Reductions range from 30 to 50 per cent. Up to one third off children's wear, selected swimwear is half price. Accessorize reductions include 50 per cent off floral scarves and selected bags and straw hats.

Mulberry 41-42 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4323); 185 Brompton Road, SW1 (0171-225 0313); 23-25 Swinegate, York (01904 611055). Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off selected items. Bicolor bag was £139, now £69, spiral table lamp from £129 to £89.

Nicole Farhi 158 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8368); 193 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171 235 8877); 12 Floral Street, WC2

(0171-497 8713); 25-26 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-836 3416); 27 Hampstead High Street, NW3 (0171-435 0866). Sale starts on Wednesday. Up to 50 per cent off. Cotton jumper down from £129 to £89; linen trousers down from £139 to £89. Discounts on jeans for men and women.

Nougat Nougat at Fenwick, Brent Cross Shopping Centre (0181-202 8200); Jill Black, Barton Arcade, Manchester (0161-634 5160). Sale now on. Discounts on selected items.

Oasis 292 Regent Street, W1 and branches nationwide (0171-452 1000). From Thursday. Up to 50 per cent off knitwear, jersey and swimwear and 30 per cent off tailoring and separates. Selected shoes and accessories reduced by one third. Jewellery range down to half price. Sicilian lace dress was £34.99, now £19.99, maxi crocheted dress from £64.99 to £39.99, fringed micro vest from £19.99 to £9.99.

Osh Kosh B'Gosh 17 King's Road, SW3 (0171-730 1341). Sale now on. Up to 30 per cent off selected merchandise.

Patrick Cox 8 Synons Street, SW3 (0171-730 6504); 129 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-730 8889); 81 King Street, Manchester (0161-819 5336). Sale now on. Reductions of up to 70 per cent on selected items. Fifty per cent off clothing for men and women.

Paul Smith 40-44 Floral Street, WC2; 10 Byard Lane, Nottingham (0115 950 6712); 66-68 Bridge Street, Manchester (0161-831 9111). Inquiries 0171-379 7133. Paul Smith Jeans, 9-11 Langley Court, WC2. Sale starts July 31. Discounts begin at 30 per cent.

Penhaligon's 20a Brook Street, W1 (0171-493 0002); 16 Burlington Arcade, W1 (0171-629 1416); 41 Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-836 2150). Sale starts Wednesday.

Prada 43-45 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 0008).

Red or Dead 38 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 1649); 33 Neal Street, WC2. From Friday. Up to 50 per cent off on clothing and footwear. T-shirts down from £35 to £15.

Reiss The Reiss Building, 114 King's Road, SW3; 116 Long Acre, WC2; 245 Regent Street, W1 and branches in Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow (0171-225 4900). Discounts of between 25 and 50 per cent. Single-breasted suit was £325, now £195; casual field jacket from £165 to £89.

Russell & Bromley 24-25 New Bond Street, London W1; 41 branches nationwide. Inquiries 0171-629 6903. Sale starts July 9. Discounts of up to 60 per cent on selected items.

The Scotch House 2 Brompton Road, SW1; 84-86 Regent Street, W1; 39-41 Princes Street, Edinburgh (0171-581 2151). Sale now on. Reductions of 30 to 40 per cent. Ladies cashmere crew-neck jumper from £155 to £129, men's cashmere jumper was £195, now £145.

Simpson Piccadilly 203 Piccadilly, W1. Customer inquiries (0800 288188). Sale now on until Aug 1. Reductions on Daks and designer wear for men and women. Up to 50 per cent off selected items. Armani suits from £650 to £450; Daks women's blazers from £309 to £154.50.

Tie Rack 487 Oxford Street, W1; 49 Regent Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0181-230 2333). From Thursday for four weeks. End of season reductions available in August. Up to 50 per cent off selected items. Silk scarves from £19.99 to £9.99 or two for £16, silk/linen jacket from £59 to £39.99, silk boxer shorts from £12.99 to £7.99 or two for £12.

Timberland 72 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-495 2139). Inquiries (0345 669988). Sale now on.

Valentino 174 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 5355); Miss Valentino, 160 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-493 2698). Sale now on. Up to 30 per cent off men's wear and 40 per cent off women's wear.

Vivienne Westwood 6 Davies Street, W1 (0171-629 3757); 43 Conduit Street, W1 (0171-439 1109); World's End, 430 King's Road, SW10 (0171-352 6551). Sale starts Friday. Thirty per cent reductions on Gold Label, Man & Angliomania.

Walls 215-217 Oxford Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0181-910 1339). Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off selected items. Jackets from £65-£50, skirts from £27-£20.

Warehouse 19-21 Argyl Street, W1 (0171-437 7101); 75 branches nationwide. Inquiries 0171-278 3491. Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off. White pointed cardigan from £40 to £20, black drawstring trousers from £40 to £20.

Watches of Switzerland 16 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-493 5916). Branches nationwide. Sale now on until July 26. Omega gentlemen's steel Speedmaster was £995, now £636; Longines ladies gold plated bracelet was £599, now £499.

Whistles 12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-487 4484). Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off selected items.

Yves Saint Laurent 137 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-493 1800); 33 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 6706). Sale now on. Reductions of 40 to 70 per cent off all spring and summer stock. Forty per cent off selected menswear.

HOMES AND INTERIORS

Bridgewater/Matthew Rice 739 Fulham Road, SW6 (0171-371 9133). From July 1 for three weeks. Reductions on items including dinner plates, tea cups and saucers.

Cargo Homeshop 209 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-580 2805). Over 50 stores nationwide. Sale now on. Discounts of up to 25 per cent on selected sofas and china ranges. Sonia room divider was £249, now £124.50.

The Conran Shop Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road,

SW3 (0171-589 7401). Sale from July 4-19. Up to 50 per cent discount on discontinued items. Thirty per cent off ex-display upholstery. Bargains in damaged goods and samples.

Damask 3-4 Brotholme House, New King's Road, SW6 (0171-731 3553). From July 10-31. Reductions on nightwear and quilts; cushions 25-50 per cent off.

Designers Guild Store 267 King's Road, SW3 (0171-243 7300). From July 4-18. Discounts on bedlinen, cushions, rugs, paper products, cotton and wool blankets.

Designers Guild Warehouse 6 Relay Road, Ariel Way off Wood Lane, W12. From July 11-19. Discounts on fabric and wallpaper.

Divertimenti 45-47 Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 0689); 139-41 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-581 8065). From July 11 for two weeks. Forty per cent discount on a range of cookware and cutlery.

Furnitureland 57-63 Croydon Road, SE20 (0181-768 7100). Eighteen stores. Sale now on. Discounts of up to 50 per cent.

General Trading Company 144 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-730 0411); 10 Argyle Street, Bath (01225 461507); 2-4 Dyer Street, Cranston (01285 652314). From July 11-25. Reductions of up to 40 per cent on merchandise throughout shop.

Graham & Green 4, 7 and 10 Elgin Crescent, W11 (0171-727 4594). From July 3. Reductions on Daks and designer wear for men and women. Up to 50 per cent off lighting, tableware, furniture, cookware and bedlinen. Twenty to 50 per cent off clothes collections including Anna Sui, Nicole Cadine and Transit.

Habitat 40 stores nationwide (0645 334433). Sale now on. Reductions of up to 50 per cent on selected lines. Idaho sofa was £749, now £599; Cairn, Doodle, Lyne bedlinen reduced by 30 per cent.

Heals 196 Tottenham Court Road, W1; 234 King's Road, SW3; Tunsgate, Guildford, Surrey (0171-636 1666). Sale now on until July 19. Reductions in all departments. Frontier bed was £779, now £699; Butler table in oak or cherry from £395 to £195; Quattro aluminium CD stand from £110 to £88.

The Holding Company 243-245 King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 1600); mail order (0171-610 9160). From Wednesday to July 15. Storage and gift ideas from around the world reduced from 10 to 40 per cent.

Jerry's Home Store 163 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-581 0909); 57 Heath Street, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-794 8622); The Bentall Centre, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey (0181-549 5823); Home on Four, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-245 6251). Sale now on. Fifty per cent off selected items including dinnerware and glassware, beach towels, candles. One third off deck chairs.

The Monogrammed Linen Shop 168 Walton Street, SW3 (0171-589 4033) and Harvey Nichols, SW1. From Wednesday. Discounts of at least 30 per cent.

Purves & Purves 80-81 and S3 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-580 8223). Sale now on. Up to 40 per cent off accessories and discounts off ex-display furniture. Ten per cent off purchases over £500 on single or multiple items.

SCP Furniture Ltd 136-139 Curtain Road, EC2 (0171-739 1869). From July 4-25. Up to 50 per cent off selected stock including Cappellini, Artek, Le Corbusier. Discounts of up to 15 per cent on orders placed during the sale.

Simon Horn Furniture 117-121 Wandsworth Bridge Road, SW6 (0171-731 1299). From July 4-25. Up to 50 per cent off selected beds. Hand-carved rosewood bed was £3,166, now £1,742.

The Source 26-40 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 2626); 10 Harbour Parade, Southampton (01703 336141). Sale now on. Up to 50 per cent off selected lines including Christy deep pile 100 per cent deep pile towels. Bath towel was £14.95, now £7.45; glass pear-shaped vase was £17.95, now £11.95.

White House 40-41 Conduit Street, W1 (0171-629 3521). From Wednesday to July 18. Up to 50 per cent off fine bedlinen. Swiss voile double duvet from £370 to £185; children's wear reduced by 50 per cent and there are savings on table linen, towels and towelling robes.

She made her own Hampton Court

Nymphs and nudes stand out in plot designed for fun, writes Jane Owen

ME AND MY GARDEN: GLORIA HUNNIFORD

The drive in front of Gloria Hunniford's Georgian-style home in Sevenoaks is littered with three smart cars and a temple with a naked man inside. The cars have number plates like B2 FUN and GLO 47T. The man has a fig leaf and he is part of a remarkable collection of statuary that Ms Hunniford has bought from the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, her favourite garden festival.

She tours the show every year with her old friend Sir Cliff Richard before the great unwashed are allowed in. Ms Hunniford's mellifluous Irish voice pours over me, weaving in jokes with explanations of the planting, chat about her grandchildren and her career as one of the early female presenters in radio and television. Here, behind electronically-controlled wrought-iron gates, she has created a world of cosy security: trim lawns and sun umbrellas on the terrace.

The Hunnifords have one garden party a year and plenty of al fresco dinners which take place in an ornate iron gazebo on a brick plinth. A large white umbrella spreads protection over the green painted table and chairs below, and lanterns are hung out for evening light. "My children called it the bandstand," says Ms Hunniford, who moved here ten years ago and started work on the garden two years ago.

"That's what I like about Hampton Court. Unlike Chelsea, you can buy things there and carry them off home," says Ms Hunniford who presumably uses a lorry with winching gear to visit the show. A bosomy nymph, diaphanous frock falling fetchingly from her person, is collecting water in a flowerbed a few yards from the gazebo. Ms Hunniford says: "I daubed a gurt all over her to give her an aged look." Ms Hunniford's housekeeper later reported that she had found the statue in a dreadful state and given it a scrubbing.



The doveless dovecot

Behind the nymph is a long wooden building housing a swimming pool, although Ms Hunniford cannot swim. But her three grandchildren do, and so do her partner's four



Gloria Hunniford with one of her collection of statuary bought on a visit to the Hampton Court Flower Show

grandchildren. Her partner, Stephen Way, is a hairdresser. Although both are divorced they will marry in church (with special permission from the Bishop) in September at Hever Castle.

Beyond the gazebo is a privet hedge with a gap in the middle revealing a mixed border and the bust of a 19th-century scholar. This is what Ms Hunniford calls her Secret Garden. Beds straddle a grass path which leads to a cherub cawing on a plinth backed by her favourite tree, a horse chestnut. About the cherubs she says: "I like statues."

At the opposite end of the path are a couple of Versailles tubs and a white dovecot, a birthday present from her sons two years ago, which has yet to acquire doves — too messy. Instead, there are a couple of decoy ducks perched on its edge. There is a Lutyns bench and some white Victorian-style benches and, below the terrace, a vast Ali Baba pot displayed on its side. A second gazebo, set about with weigela, frames yet another statue and on the terrace



A corner flowerbed is filled with lupins and, right, an Ali Baba urn rests on its side

around the house, a pretty stone fountain of fruits and flowers, is temporarily out of action. The conservatory, added by Ms Hunniford, is stuffed with pelargoniums. Ivy, jasmine and false castor oil plants cluster on the sides of the house beside climbing roses, including some which decorated the church when her daughter Caron Keating got married.

"It is a garden for the grandchildren so they can come and play with their football, bikes and tractors. I am a keen amateur gardener but I did not want anything too prissy. Everyone should be able to enjoy it. I have a gardener who comes once every two weeks to do the heavy work. What I like about this garden is the privacy," says Ms Hunniford who is, quite possibly, unique

in the pleasure she takes over some leylandii which border her garden.

● The best way to see the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show without the crowds is to go to the Gala on Monday, July 6, before it has opened to members of the Royal Horticultural Society or the public. The £48 ticket includes champagne and a fireworks display. Money raised goes to the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. Ticket line 0171-630 5999.



A view of the garden featuring the ornate "bandstand"



The new Chinese temple in Stowe's Lamport gardens

It's festival time

GARDENS TO VISIT

■ **Arley Gardens**
The Arley Garden Festival runs today and tomorrow. Signposted from J19/20 off the M6 and M56 (01565 777353). For the rest of the year the garden is open from Easter to Sept. Tues-Sun, 11am-5pm. £3.60.

THE festival is growing and this year includes eight display gardens, an advice team including the National Trust's former head of gardens John Sales, 45 nurseries and 40 garden accessory stands. The ticket to the festival includes a garden visit.

This weekend the double herbaceous border (about 40m by 15m) will be at its best, with the delphiniums at their peak. Yew buttresses, similar to those at Biddulph Grange, the National Trust property in Staffordshire, created by James Bateman in the 19th century, punctuate the border.

Walls enclosing the vegetable garden were built in 1750, but the most important parts of the garden are probably due to his great-grandparents, Rowland and Mary, who made 18th-century-style enclosures of yew and brick, and the long vistas which are still so much a feature. The Furlong Walk is a terrace of that length once planted with holly, golden and Irish yew, ilex and thuja. A few of the original plants are still going strong today. The Rootery — a Victorian stumpery — was restored by the present owner.

● **Stowe Landscape Gardens**
Buckingham, three miles NW of Buckingham (01280 822850). £4.40. Open Mon, Wed, Fri and Sun until July 5, 10am-5pm. Next week there is a walk with the gardener from 1.30pm-4.30pm, call 01494 522234 to book.

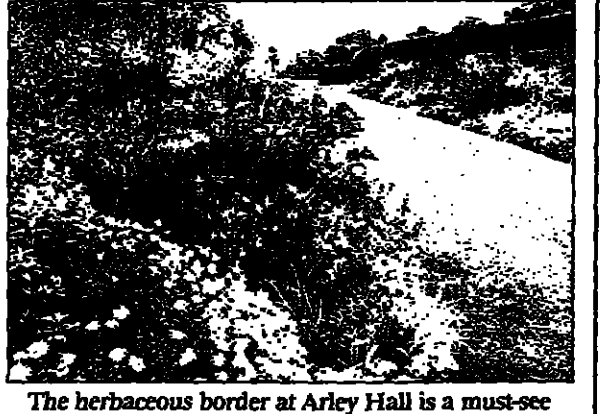
NOW is the time to visit because the dazzling Chinese temple has been completed on the lake in the Lamport gardens. Another addition is the group of Saxon behind the Gothic temples.

So many of the big names of landscaping — Bridgeman, Kent, Capability Brown and Vanbrugh — were involved in creating Stowe and so many layers of political, classical and even military allegory were introduced in the 18th century that restoration has been a delicate job. The Trust plans to spend £15 million — one of the largest restorations in Britain.

The landscape is dotted with eyecatchers and temples, so many that one visitor commented that "my lord Temple has been too much led astray by his name", a reference to the man who took over the estate after Cobham.

JANE OWEN

ANTHONY LLOYD



The herbaceous border at Arley Hall is a must-see

Oasis of green peace where the spirit can flourish

A 'Quiet Garden' is a place for peace and reflection. Clive Fewins reports

When the going gets tough in her two-acre garden, Noreen Cooper walks to the large nettle patch in front of which is a small ceramic plaque. It quotes a verse from the Old Testament: "A land possessed by nettles" (Zephaniah 2:9).

Another plaque in front of a large patch of brambles quotes from The Song of Solomon. It says: "As a lily among brambles so is my love."

Like many gardeners Mrs Cooper and her husband are not perfectionists. They love their garden, but as keen Christians they see it as an allegory of life — "the mess that is life", as Mrs Cooper says.

There are 26 plaques containing Biblical quotations. Apart from this the garden is like any other with a large lawn and an old brick wall that dates from the years when



The Rev Philip Roderick in his garden at Amersham, and right, St Matthew's in Camberwell, which has been transformed



it was a farmhouse. The wide beds are filled with the kinds of flowers and shrubs associated with cottage gardens — lupins, foxgloves, poppies, feverfew and lilies. The restful colours engender an atmosphere of calm.

Five years ago the Coopers' plot became the first to be designated a Quiet Garden by the newly-formed Quiet Garden Trust, an ecumenical Christian organisation. Today, there are 125 Quiet Gardens in this country but there are some in America, Canada,

Australia, Africa, India and Jerusalem. In the UK the Coopers' plot is one of the biggest Quiet Gardens. The smallest is at the rear of a terrace house in Windsor.

"Recently, we have been growing at an average of one garden a week. Last September the total was 100, so the growth is remarkably rapid," says the director of the Trust, the Rev Philip Roderick, 49. A parish priest in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, Mr Roderick thought of the idea of Quiet Gardens six years ago. "I was relaxing in the garden when

the penny suddenly dropped that Jesus consistently withdrew to pray in beautiful places such as a hilltop or beside a lake," he says. "I coined the phrase Quiet Garden as a name for a place of stillness and beauty where people can go to sit and be still, reflect and pray."

By a series of what he calls "providential encounters" he heard that the Coopers had recently moved to their large house and had a spare wing that they were willing to hand over for use by a Christian organisation. They did not

need to be persuaded to allow their garden to be used in a similar way, and since then it has been a Quiet Garden for two days a month.

Appropriately, the garden is only two fields away from the parish church of St Giles, where Thomas Gray wrote his famous *Elegy* written in a Country Churchyard.

Some of the prayer and meditation takes place indoors, but people attending are free to use the garden for their own quiet meditation.

The central thrust of the Quiet Garden movement is that gardens offer a "halfway house" between a church and a full-blown retreat house. People can go at set times for periods of reflection and attempt, as Mr Roderick puts it, "to realise their spirituality."

When there are more structured sessions of discussion or study at Quiet Gardens they are interspersed with periods of prayer — there is no formal worship — and guided meditation.

"Anyone can come along," says Mr Roderick. "Quiet Gardens are open to anyone of any or no religion, but the teaching is in the Christian tradition."

In addition to the Quiet Gardens, there are some emerging Quiet Places in the City, mainly in London, where specific outdoor spaces have been set aside for the same purpose.

"I regard myself as a bit of a visionary, but I must say my jaw fell two years ago when I saw the photograph of the narrow space beside St Matthew's in Camberwell that had been derelict since the church was built on the edge of a council estate in the early Sixties," Mr Roderick says.

Now the space has been cleared of a mountain of rub-

ble and is ablaze with a mass of old English garden flowers, mainly in raised beds.

Mr Roderick finds it hard to explain the extraordinary increase in the number of people offering their gardens as Quiet Gardens, but he quotes the example of the businessman he met in Vancouver, Canada, who spent 14 years creating his garden, then for the first time sat and looked at it.

"He suddenly realised what so many of us who are gardeners do not — we work too hard on our gardens to enjoy them," Mr Roderick says.

People overload themselves at work, then at home they get themselves into a similar state

and they can't stop, he says. "Even in their own gardens they are task-driven. The irony is that people often realise this only by visiting other people's gardens where they can rest and seek a proper balance."

As well as extending the concept into Quiet Places in the City, Mr Roderick is also exploring the idea of executive retreats at Quiet Gardens and of Quiet Spaces in schools.

Later this year, the Trust is to launch an appeal for funds so it can expand and appoint a full-time administrator.

● The Quiet Garden Trust, Stoke Park Farm, Park Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks. SL2 4PG (01753 64030).

Nip it in the bud

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Shrinking violets eat your heart out

You can always spot a strong, desirable plant by the way it crops up in neighbouring gardens again and again. In North Devon on a recent visit, the recurring theme in coastal gardens was *Echium pininana*. Wherever frost is rare this fabulous monster crops up in gardens, from coastal north Norfolk to the Isle of Wight, around the West Country coast, up the coast of Wales and beyond into Scotland.

It is one of those plants which build up a rosette of leaves in the first year on a knee-high trunk. Then in the second year it throws up a blue flower spike 10ft tall, narrow and pointed at the top, but gradually becoming fatter below, like a massive rat's tail. Usually it then dies, leaving seedlings around to continue the race. Head gardener Claire Burgoyne at Hartland Abbey, near Clovelly, has friends in California who cut the flower spike of *Echium pininana* right down as soon as it is past its best, forcing the roots to throw up new shoots instead of making millions of seeds and dying of exhaustion. She intends to try it too, dead-heading with a big saw.

At Tapeley Park, near Bideford, the echiums were looking fabulous. Tapeley is a delightfully uninstitutionalised garden, and home of Hector Christie, son of the Glydebourne Christie family. Italianate terraces were laid out below the house at the turn of the century and have recently been revitalised and replanted by Carol Klein and by Mary Keen, who also designed the planting around the new opera house at Glydebourne. On a bank beside the terraces was a grove of flowering echiums 12ft tall. Alone they would be dramatic, but here they are interplanted with several *Eremurus robustus*, a fox-tail lily. This plant throws narrow, parallel-sided, apricot-flower spikes 8ft into the air. In winter it dies down completely, and even in colder gardens will come through the

The massive spikes of echiums are not for the faint-hearted.

Stephen Anderton went to Devon to admire them in all their glory

winter with a little protection laid over the crown. As a plinth to all this was a group of *Geranium maderense* in flower, making a purple-pink cloud of exhaust fumes under the rising spikes. And finally, just lifting the purple-pink into the air a little, were foxgloves.

What a moment it was. Not only did they all look good together, but they were happy together practically speaking. The *eremurus* are hungry plants with fat, brittle roots which fan out from the crown like a starfish, just under the surface of the soil. It is as easy to disturb their roots as it is tricky to lift them and replant. When necessary, it is best done in spring, just as the crown buds begin to swell, lifting the clump and washing off the soil until the individual starfish can be separated without damage.

The echiums, geraniums and foxgloves, on the other hand, seed themselves generously and do not need putting

out as potted plants, which might disturb the foxtail roots. Indeed, they make better plants when self-sown. They also produce plenty of low leaf to hide the strappy, fast-fading foliage of the foxtails.

Tapeley is full of surprises. There is a dark tunnel of clipped evergreen oaks, 50 yards long. In the walled kitchen garden a reinforced concrete greenhouse from 1933 stretches the length of the north wall in a long, continuous arch. Set against all these arching beams are flat panes of glass, bedded on asbestos string.

‘The spikes gradually become fatter low down, like a rat’s tail’

The house leaks a bit, but it is an extraordinarily beautiful structure. Behind it lives a group of black Berkshire sows, at the centre of whose enclosure, headlong in the mud, slept Neil, the boar.

One of our party asked head gardener Tom Roberts Arnold if Neil was dead, but we decided he was just a crashing boar. Get away from the coast of

Devon and the climate is far colder, and not at all the West Country idyll that gardeners imagine.

At the Royal Horticultural Society's garden Rosemoor, inland near Great Torrington, winter nights often dip to minus 7C. *Echiums* would not do here, except in a huge pot as I used to grow them in Northumberland.

Rosemoor has to bed out its tender succulents for the summer months and take them under cover again in winter. By the door of Rosemoor House a pot of the black *Madeiran aconitum* 'Atropurpureum' was bearing flowers which had developed under glass in the winter - fat fans of clear yellow stars over a shiny black stem and foliage.

If only this plant would flower like that through the summer. Unfortunately, when we put it out for the summer in Britain, it is its growing time, and the urge to flower only comes at the onset of winter.

Rosemoor is on wet clay soil in a valley bottom, and yew hedges planted a few years ago proved an easy prey to the fungal root disease phytophthora, which causes young yews to turn brown or orange and die. So much more tolerant hedges of alternate smooth-leaved holly (Hlx J.C. van Tol) and box have been planted.

It is an interesting idea, borrowed from the garden at Hidcote Manor in Gloucestershire. If the two species are encouraged by pruning to meld together irregularly rather than in vertical stripes, they will make a most attractive glossy evergreen hedge. The box will remain dense low down and fill any higher gaps left by this rather open-growing variety of holly.



Head gardener Tom Roberts Arnold dwarfed by echium spikes at Tapeley Park



■ If you wish to lift bedding tulips, do so when the leaves and flower stems are brown and papery. Clean the bulbs, dust with sulphur and store in a cool, dry, mouse-proof place until November. If the bulbs are to stay in the ground, simply pull off the spent foliage.

■ Spray outbreaks of bindweed with glyphosate. Where it has crept into ornamentals, train it up bamboo canes and apply the glyphosate to the foliage with a rubber glove before it flowers.

■ Pinch out young, non-flowering shoots on *cistus*, *halimium*, *genista* and *Prostanthera cuneata* to encourage bushy growth. Young plants of Mediterranean aromatics such as rosemary, lavender and curry plant will also benefit greatly from having the main shoots pinched out in early summer for the first couple of years.

■ Rough grass containing daffodils may be mown off now, even if the foliage is not absolutely yellow.

■ Keep the hoe moving on bare soil between vegetables or flowers to kill weed seedlings as they first appear.

■ Hand weed onions to avoid root damage, the smell of which will bring in onion fly.

■ Summer prune side shoots on gooseberries and white and redcurrants back to five leaves after harvesting. Blackcurrants may be pruned more easily by pruning at the same time, cutting out 30 per cent of the older flowered wood to make room for new shoots and picking the berries at your leisure.

FACTS ON ECHIUM

- SEED of *Echium pininana* will be available in autumn for spring sowing from Thompson and Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BU (01473 688821), and Chiltern Seeds, Bortree Stile, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 7PB (01229 584549).
- Tapeley Park, Instow, near Bideford, Devon EX39 4NT (01271 342371). Open daily to November 1 except Saturdays.
- Rosemoor Garden, Great Torrington, Devon EX38 8PH (01805-624067). Open daily all year.
- Hartland Abbey, Hartland, Near Bideford, Devon EX39 6DT (01237 441264). Open during summer, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday afternoons.

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This year's red hot pokers

Plants also go in and out of fashion, says Barbara Abbs

In spite of efforts to remain above the ephemeral world of fashion, even gardeners are not immune. Plants suddenly appear and disappear from the horticultural firmament, sometimes because they are prone to disease or hard to propagate, but more often because of the vagaries of fashion.

This is not a new phenomenon. The mahogany-coloured, chocolate-scented cosmos, *C. atrosanguinea*, was unobtainable for many years, crept back into cultivation, then became wildly desirable. The cosmos came from Mexico in 1835 and was known for a time as *Bidens atrosanguinea*. Why did its deep red petals and delicious smell cease to please, and for so long?

Today, the time it takes a plant to move from being a rarity to fashionableness, then from being popular to becoming common is very short.

Jennie Maillard, who runs Usual & Unusual Plants, a small, specialist nursery in Sussex, notices the effect of *Gardeners' World* and the Royal Horticultural Society on the plants she sells. "I have grown grasses for years and they languished in a corner of the nursery. Now, since Alan Titchmarsh planted them in his garden, people often ask me what I've got."

Mrs Maillard says she also notices a great surge of interest among her customers in any species that the RHS has had on trial at Wisley and expects a run on poppies after the luscious photographs that appeared in *The Garden*. Last year it was perenniums.

New plants reach the trade in a variety of ways. They are bred commercially; they are found in gardens as "sports" (naturally occurring mutations), often by amateurs; or they are discovered abroad by plant-finding expeditions.

Delicate, pure blue *Corydalis flexuosa* 'Pere David' was discovered in China by an expedition one year, sold by the seriously fashionable Green



Jennie Maillard has grown grasses for years. "Now, since Alan Titchmarsh planted them in his garden, people often ask me what I've got"

Farm Plants soon after and by four or five other good nurseries the following year. Then it was used in every garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, a sure sign of fashion status, and now is widely available throughout the land.

As for tomorrow's fashionable plants, *Cerintho major* 'Purpurascens' is an annual with definite class. Its grey leaves, metallic blue bracts and purple flowers are eye-catching and distinctive without being brash. Sown in clumps they will form dense, compact masses.

Hostas, once fashionable and fairly exclusive, are now very popular. Perfectly grown hostas are wonderful garden plants, but in the real world of imperfectly managed, snail and slug-infested gardens, it is rare to find them unravaged.

Despairing gardeners can turn instead to the up-and-coming pulmonaria. Jennifer Harmer, the historian of the

INFORMATION

- The RHS Plantfinder, £12.99 from good booksellers.
- The Plant Finder Reference Library CD-Rom, £25 from The Plant Finder, 10 Market Street, Lewes, BN7 2ZZ.
- The Hardy Plant Society, Little Orchard, Great Comberton, Worts, WR10 3DP.



In: *Cosmo atrosanguinea* (left) and *Cerintho major*



NURSERIES

- Cotswold Garden Flowers (01396 47337).
- Crug Farm Plants (01248 670232).
- Green Farm Plants (01420 23202). No mail order. Catalogue.
- Paradise Centre (01787 269449). Catalogue.
- Usual & Unusual Plants (01323 840967). No mail order.

Hardy Plant Society, is enthusiastic about pulmonarias and is convinced they will be the next big thing. They have wonderful foliage, long leaves splashed or brushed with silver and early flowers in white, blue, pink and red.

Cultivars to 'die for', she says, are *Pulmonaria longifolia* 'Ankum' and *P. saccharata* 'Cotton Cool'. She suggests

cutting the plants back after flowering to enjoy vivid new foliage from July onwards. Drama is definitely in. Enormous tree-ferns, like the almost hardy *Dicksonia antarctica*, are being erected in the smartest gardens. Smaller, but equally dramatic, is *Diphylleia cymosa*, with leaves two feet across (divided in two like butterflies' wings),

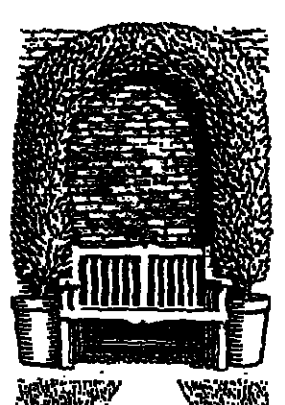
white flowers and blue berries. Asarum is another genus that is in the very forefront of fashion. *A. hartwegii* has large heart-shaped leaves, mottled like a moody cyclamen. *A. arifolium* has mottled, almost spear-shaped leaves. These North Americans can be bought from the Paradise Centre in Suffolk, while Crug Farm Plants in North Wales has many asarums from China and Taiwan.

STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

Q We have a 36in garden seat, at either end of which is a golden privet planted in a tub and clipped into a column shape. We would like the privets to meet in an arch over the seat. How do we go about it? — Dr R. Horsey, Stockbridge, Hants.

A Simplest and most invisible would be to erect a pair of heavy-gauge wire arches, front and back, and to clip the top growth until it has followed the wire sideways to meet above.

But privet is not a very rigid subject for topiary. I would be inclined to line your arch with wooden trellis attached to zinc pressure-treated timber, with its legs set in the tubs. A heavy snowfall might break or bend an unsupported privet arch.



upturned plantpot. If not, keep it in a pot and winter it in a cold greenhouse. It can be planted next May or June. Gently tease out spiralling roots, but without disturbing the rootball.

Q I have successfully grown a Judas tree from seeds collected in Cyprus. It is 2in high and has five leaves. What do I do now? — J. Brown, Sudbury, Suffolk.

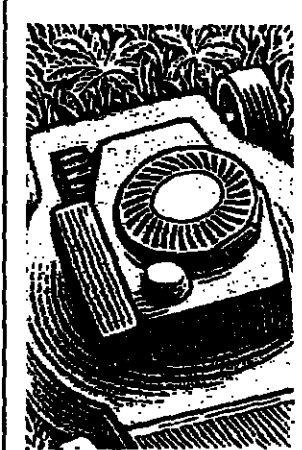
Q Can you tell me what is happening to my peony flowers? They seemed to be healthy, then the stems began to flatten, causing them to collapse and die. — M. Squire, Wolverhampton.

A *Cercis siliquastrum*, the Judas tree, enjoys a good, hot summer and will flower all the better in the following spring. It is a member of the family Leguminosae and resents root disturbance. Ideally, it should go into its final position as young as possible.

A The problem is peony wilt, a fungal disease by the name of *Botrytis paeoniae*. Cut and burn infected stems, and spray with carbendazim. In the case of infection attacking the emerging shoots, spray early next year, as soon as they start to grow.

But a tiny seedling may be easily swamped in the garden. If you can give it an open but sheltered position, plant it out now and protect it through the first winter with a mulch and an

Q We have wild primroses in areas of rough grass. When is it safe to plant it out now and protect it through the first winter with a mulch and an



A So long as you mow high and do not leave the cut grass lying on the primroses and turf, you can mow as soon as you wish. Given a chance, primrose leaves will go on for most of the summer, building strength for next year. If you want your primroses to increase you must mow above their seedheads to allow the seed to ripen and fall.

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Don't give a hoot for new rules

Some neighbours of ours are mad about owls. Their house is stuffed with owl pictures and owl books, and over the years they've planted hundreds of trees on their 200-acre farm to attract these birds. In fact, they've been so successful that little owls are always perching on their Rayburn chimney, being overcome by the fumes, toppling down and blocking it up.

But this year, they've been forced into enraging one of their pet owls in order to comply with a fresh set of farming regulations. It has come about because they grow a large amount of grain and peas and have become frightened that if they don't join the new Assured Combinable Crops scheme they'll be unable to sell any of their produce after this year's harvest.

The ACC scheme — which has just started — aims to reassure consumers about the quality of the crops they're eating (or, in the case of whisky, drinking). To do this, it imposes a new and even more stringent set of rules on participating farmers.

It is these rules that my neighbours' female tawny owl has fallen foul of. The

inspector — or verifier — who visited their farm insisted that their grain store was thoroughly netted against birds, and noticed at once that an owl-sized hole had been cut in one wall to let the tawny come and go whenever she liked. My neighbours were most indignant about having to block this up.

'Why shouldn't the owl have a little family in the corn store?' they asked. 'It's the best way of getting rid of mice. We don't want to use poison because it kills the wildlife, and it wouldn't work here anyway because we've got oats in the store, and they contain vitamin K which is an antidote to warfarin.'

They did try putting wire across the hole, but the next night the owl knocked it out. She even laid an egg in protest, on a conveyor belt just inside the store. (She's fond of laying in crazy places — it's one of her peculiarities, such as following

my neighbours wherever they happen to be working in the evenings, and calling out to them.) When I discussed the problem with Robin Pirie, the Eastern Counties manager for the ACC scheme, he'd come across it before. A likeable Scot from Carnoustie, he controls 20 verifiers and often meets farmers with a weakness for owls. 'I was at a farm the other day where they had owls breeding in the store. Dear me, what a mess!' he said. 'Not only droppings, but little packages, too. If you are going to keep pigeons out, you really can't make an exception for

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

owls.' I trotted out all my neighbours' arguments: that owls are the best and cleanest predator, and infinitely preferable to cats in a grain store; and that everything imaginable messes on the corn in the field — deer, crows, foxes, badgers — so why make a fuss when it's brought indoors? Pirie sighed good-humouredly and said that it was perfectly possible to use humane traps if you don't want to harm the environment. He doesn't object to any vermin control system, as long as it's clean and effective — although farmers often have bizarre

ideas about what constitutes a workable system. 'One place I went to, the farmer swore he had no rodent problems but when we opened the grain store there was this mighty rat sitting on top of the grain. The farmer darted forward, hit it with a stick, and said to me: 'There! I told you my vermin-control policy worked!'

Pirie pointed out that the ACC scheme is basically applying the same rules to places where crops are stored as are already enforced in factories and restaurants. 'We say to farmers: You're the first part of the food-chain.'

Unlike the existing Maff recommendations, for instance, the ACC scheme insists that all store lights and windows are covered, so that broken glass can't fall into grain. The scheme also demands that detailed records of farm practices are kept, so that any future problems can be traced back to source. It does this to en-

sure that nothing like the BSE crisis ever hits the grain and combined crops industry, but has come up against sizeable opposition. Rebellious farmers have accused the scheme of being an 'Orwellian nightmare' and suggested that since it involves so much extra pen-pushing it ought to be renamed the 'Assured Paperwork Scheme'.

It seems to me that one problem with the scheme is that the verifiers aren't like Government food inspectors: they don't make random and unexpected checks and they have no legal muscle. So while their recommendations are excellent, how can anyone be certain that they are being followed?

In the case of my neighbours, after listening to their tawny owl hooting miserably outside the grain store, and after making a nesting box in a nearby tree (which she ignored), they have opened up the hole again and let her continue about her normal business — which involves the odd pellet in the grain.

It may be a triumph of common sense over bureaucracy, but it's hardly what the ACC scheme intended.

Anglers cast around for culprits

Salmon fishing is dying, says Magnus Linklater

I DROPPED the little Dunkeld fly into the swirl at the top of the rock pool, where the water was clear as gin. I knew there was a fish there — I had seen it move lazily, breaking the surface with a thrilling whoosh ten minutes earlier. But it had shown no interest in my efforts, and I was about to move on.

Just one more cast, you never know. The fly sat for a moment on the surface, then was sucked under, drifting slowly towards the white race of water downstream.

Suddenly, the rod shuddered. The tip bent to breaking point, the line streaked away at a crazy angle and the reel gave out a sound like a Formula One car on the starting grid. The next ten minutes, as I tried, and eventually failed, to land the fish — a 15lb monster, I swear — have remained indelible.

In the end it broke my cast on a rock somewhere deep in the Findhorn River, and I bade it a sad farewell. It is two years since I lost it, but I can still replay every twist and turn of that heart-stopping fight.

To catch a spring-run salmon is one of the great sporting experiences. It is also, alas, an increasingly rare one. On the salmon rivers of Scotland, the talk this season is once again of poor catches, with anglers cancelling expensive holidays, gillies being laid off, and hotels closing.

Catches are said to have dropped by a third in the past four years, and some rivers have begun to report a total absence of migratory fish. Most experts place the blame on declining stocks at sea, with disease from fish farms, predatory seals, global warming, and over-fishing variously cited.

There is particular anger at the drift-netting off the Northumberland coast, where trawlers, with their miles of monofilament nets, are taking thousands of tonnes of salmon from the North Sea, an area that accounts for 80 per cent of all the fish in Scotland's rivers.

Banned in Scottish coastal waters since 1962, this lethal form of fishing is still permitted in England, despite all the evidence of its deadly effects on the Atlantic salmon.

But what happens at sea is not the whole answer to the curious case of the disappearing salmon. On the Tweed, perhaps the most famous salmon



Catching a spring-run salmon is one of the great sporting experiences, but it is also an increasingly rare one. Some rivers are now reporting a total absence of migratory fish

river of them all, the annual take has actually grown in recent years, with nearly 9,000 caught last year, compared to less than 4,000 in the 1960s.

But these days they are nearly all autumn fish, coming late into the river. Spring fish, the real test of a healthy river, have been in steady decline, and on some beats on the Upper Tweed, a fishing season of ten months has been reduced to ten weeks because, from January to July, no fish swim up it.

Judith Nicol, director of the Tweed Foundation, which is trying to explain the mystery

and reverse the trend, says the consequences are serious. 'If you lose one group of fish altogether, it affects the people, the jobs, the economy of the river, and the biodiversity on which all that depends,' she says.

The Tweed alone accounts for a £13 million industry, supporting an estimated 520 jobs. In Scotland as a whole between 5,000 and 6,000 workers depend directly on the continuing health of river fishing. The

changing habits of the Atlantic salmon are thus of vital importance to an entire community.

And very strange those habits are. Hatched inland, on the gravel beds of the river, the salmon grows, from tiny alevin, through the various stages of fry, parr and smolt, before setting out to sea where it will spend a year or two in the Greenland Sea or the deep Atlantic, after which it returns to the same river, swimming back to breed in the place where it was born.

Its homing instincts are extraordinary — and extraordinarily hard to break. In the Tweed, 75 per cent of all spring salmon returning to the river persist in turning left at Galashiels and heading up one tributary — the Ettrick — ignoring the remaining 2,000-mile network. The autumn fish, by contrast, carry straight on.

'There used to be a spring run in the Upper Tweed in the 1960s,' says Mrs Nicol. 'What's happened in it? We're trying to understand, but so far there are no real clues. We have had cycles in the past, but lasting a relatively short period, like five years. This decline



Judith Nicol: 'So far there are no real clues'

has persisted for 30 years. We know cycles are part of our history, we just have to deal with them better.'

This has meant introducing a five-year conservation programme, aimed at bolstering the stock. Everyone is involved — from anglers, owners, gillies and netmen. They are now required to put back most of the fish they catch. The first one caught must be returned,

Pollution, once a serious problem because of the dyes from woollen mills in the Borders, has been greatly reduced. Stewart MacIntyre, 50, who has been fishing the river all his life, says that without action like this, stocks might have dropped below the recovery point.

'In the Sixties it was an open sewer,' he says. 'We were doing all kinds of damage which we may be paying for now.' Both he and Mrs Nicol are optimistic that the corner can be turned, but it depends heavily on what happens in the North Sea and elsewhere — matters over which they have no control.

None of this quite explains why those spring salmon persist in turning left at Galashiels, thus depriving anglers of their sport for most of the year.

Mrs Nicol says there is evidence that a large flood in 1977 may have wiped out one whole generation of fish, and with it their collective 'memory' of the upper Tweed. Stewart blames widespread disease in the mid-Sixties which may have done the same thing. He believes that each family or

group of salmon has the inherited pattern of their origins in their genes and retains it during their long ocean journey.

When they return, instinct drives them back to their place of birth. 'It's the smell, it's imprinted,' he says.

The foundation is now investigating the idea of 'seeding' the reaches of the Upper Tweed with some Ettrick stock to see if a new generation can be persuaded to acquire the habit of swimming further upstream to breed.

It is proceeding carefully — you do not lightly interfere with the life cycle of the

salmon. Mrs Nicol says: 'We are trying to understand what the river is doing and what the fish are doing, so we can maximise the river's natural productivity. Then at least the river can return as many juvenile fish out to sea as possible.'

'The most we can do is ensure that, whatever the pressure is, the stocks in the river are equipped to survive it — ready for when the next cycle comes along.'

Raise the bunting

FEATHER REPORT

I SPENT Midsummer's Day out among the wheatfields in southern Bedfordshire. The wild roses were beginning to fall, but on the bank of a river which flowed between the fields, the first pink flowers were out on the spires of rosebay willow-herb.

A sedge warbler had its nest somewhere in a tangle of brambles at the edge of the river. The female, her beak full of flies, was perched on the eaves of wheat, churring wildly as she watched me, and waited for a moment to flit across and feed her young. Her mate sang loudly in a hawthorn tree, hopping out to the edge of it to look when she made her alarm calls.

Further along, a white-throat family was already out of the nest. I could hear the young ones making rather flat chirps in an ash tree — one of those many distinctive fledgling calls that you have generally forgotten by the time they come around again the next year. They were dumpy, fluffy little birds, already showing a silvery gleam on their throats.

The deep purr of a turtle dove came clearly across some distant fields, skylarks were pouring down their song, and there were chaffinches everywhere.

But it was really the buntings' day. At one point I could hear all the three, well-known British buntings singing together. Right out in the middle of the field there was a



The male reed bunting

cock reed bunting singing on top of the wheat. Its black cap and white collar, the only, thin, fleck in the blue-green plain. I say 'singing', but in fact the reed bunting's 'song' hardly deserves the name — it is an irritating run of jerky squeaks.

Not far away, on the top branch of a dead oak, a corn bunting was launching its jangling song over the fields. Meanwhile, from several directions I could hear our commonest bunting — the yellow bunting, or yellowhammer.

The male tilts back his wondrous canary-yellow head when he sings, and his song — a clicking trill, followed by a long, thin note — is often transcribed as: 'A little bit of bread and no cheese.'

That is apt, perhaps, as the yellowhammer often sings on hawthorn bushes — and hawthorn leaves and berries were called 'bread and cheese' by hungry country children who ate them a century ago.

DERWENT MAY

Watch out for birds — late summer gatherings of mallards with the drakes moulting into eclipse plumage. Twitches — woodchat strike at Widgeons, Kent; black kite at Widdicombe, Devon; and black-headed bunting at Henstisbury, Dorset. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.

John Young asks if this year's Royal Show can shake off the rural blues

The one thing the Royal Show almost invariably seemed to guarantee, at least during my years as this newspaper's agriculture correspondent, was fine weather. I heard tell of earlier moneys, when tractors were working into the small hours to tow cars out of fields that had become quagmires, but during the 1980s the Warwickshire countryside in early July sweltered in unbroken sunshine.

Agricultural shows are generally happy affairs and if the sun shines on this year's Royal (July 6-9), it may do something to lift the spirits of Britain's farmers who are having a thoroughly bad time. Yes, we all know that farmers are given to grumbling, but after half a century of prosperity they are in a crisis.

According to the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales (NFU), farm incomes fell by half last year, largely the result of the BSE scare which caused a catastrophic fall in beef prices, and the strength of sterling which damaged exports and made imports cheaper. As a result, the NFU predicts that investment this year will be down by 37 per cent; between January and April

Will it rain on the day?

new tractor registrations were little more than half the number in the corresponding period last year.

A recent survey revealed that confidence among farmers was at its lowest in living memory, with four out of five describing prospects as very bad. This helps to explain why the march through London last March, ostensibly to protest against the Bill to ban hunting, was joined by tens of thousands of others who believe that rural life is under a more insidious threat.

Although the number of people directly employed on farms is far lower than it was even in the depression before the Second World War, agriculture is still the mainstay of life in many parts of rural Britain, contributes some 57,500 million annually to

the nation's income and, for all the disdainful talk about prairie farming and the overuse of pesticides, maintains and manages the countryside that we cherish.

As Ben Gill, president of the NFU, says: 'When the farming industry is hurting so is the rest of the rural economy.' Whether these arguments will carry much weight with the anticipated 200,000 visitors to the showground at Stoneleigh, near Leamington Spa, is open to doubt.

Over the last two decades agricultural shows have been targeted less at farmers and those who work in associated industries, and more at those looking for entertainment and a good day out — people who prefer

a sanitised rural idyll to the sweat and smells of a working farm. The Royal Agricultural Society of England, which runs the show, had little choice, however. Showgrounds have to earn their keep; many of the events staged at Stoneleigh and at the various county showgrounds during the rest of the year have no direct connection with farming.

Even farmers may, on occasion, seek a change from prodding pigs and having their ears bent by machinery salesmen. Horses and show-jumping, for example, have for a long time been an important feature of the Royal, as have the military in the form of bands and displays. But the crowds this year can also see a 'horse racing village' with 'celebrity jockeys' and a demonstration by a Royal Naval air squadron from Culdrose, in Cornwall.

Other areas of the show are given over to fishing, shooting, off-road four-wheel driving, falconry and archery. The flower display is said to be one of the biggest in Europe; the makers and sellers of food, furniture, clothing and gardening implements have seized every opportunity to promote the good life. Traditional



Charolais cattle are paraded through the grand ring after winning

country crafts now appear to embrace not just hedgerlaying, lurching and drystone walling but hand-painted silks and computer games. So where does the poor old farmer fit in to this rural panorama? Perhaps he should seek solace in the displays of new technology: refinements in the breeding of plants and animals to reduce disease and the use of agrochemicals; advances in

genetics and in organic cultivation. Chris Evans, chief economist of the Agricultural Engineers Association, which represents machinery manufacturers, says he is mildly optimistic that things will start to get better later this year. But it seems a fair bet that there will be more than one sheep or beef farmer among the milling crowds who feels that his voice no longer counts for much.

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The shell grotto is not a garden room but boasts a sauna, a shower and even an octagonal whirlpool



Mark Jackson-Stops outside The Menagerie which was built in the 1750s as a banqueting suite for the 2nd Earl of Halifax

From ruin to Palladian splendour

Marcus Binney admires a fanciful but charming restored folly, on the market for £600,000

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

The Menagerie is without doubt one of the most enchanting follies in England. Here is a garden which for sheer *jeu d'esprit* vies with Highgrove in invention if not size.

All this is due to the ultimate enthusiast for country houses and gardens, the late Gervase Jackson-Stops, architectural adviser to the National Trust, who was awarded the OBE for mounting the Treasure Houses of Britain exhibition at the National Gallery in Washington in 1985.

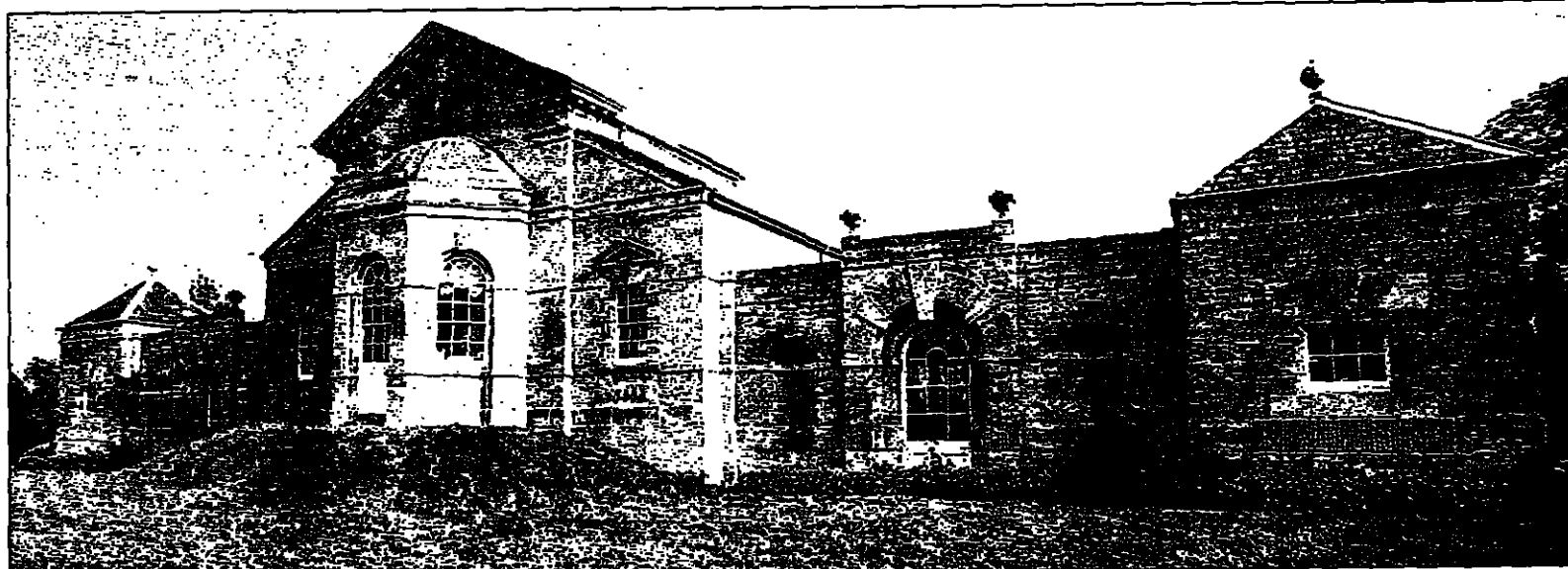
Aspiring to architectural glory, but without the means to build lavishly, Gervase bought a crumbling ruin in a field without so much as a track leading to it. This was the Menagerie of Horton House near Northampton, built in the 1750s as a banqueting house for the 2nd Earl of Halifax, who also owned the ravishing Hampton Court House which looks out over Bushy Park in London.

Horton House itself had been ignominiously demolished in 1936 and the once-vast park short of trees. The Menagerie, now on the market for £600,000 appealed to Gervase's imagination. It did not take him long to discover it was the work of the so-called Wizard of Durham, the astronomer turned architect Thomas Wright, and even before planning a kitchen or bathroom, Gervase was working out how the large medallions of the zodiac had been placed around the saloon, with the winter months near the fireplace and summer around the bay window.

All the splendid ornamental plasterwork was pieced together from fragments by the designer artist Christopher Hobbs. He says: "I offered to help, not realising it would take three years of my free time. We had some old photographs taken in 1945 and further clues were provided by a local shepherd who sheltered in the Menagerie in the 1930s and described musical instruments on the walls which could only be 18th century."

"This was a time when no one did froehand plasterwork any more. I made life much more difficult for myself by using gypsum which dries quickly and has to be carved rather than lime plaster which can be moulded like putty."

Just so future generations could never be deceived by their artifice, they left a clue in a plasterwork sheet of music



Thomas Wright, who designed The Menagerie which is now on the market for £600,000, was well-known for his eccentric approach to building work



The plasterwork took three years of spare time to finish

embellished with Shirley Temple's *Animal Crackers in My Soup*. Hobbs also did the magnificent bronzed urns in the niches of the saloon, representing the continents which he adapted from a drawing by Whistler. They are adorned with a dromedary for Asia and an alligator for America. "The Menagerie predates the American eagle," says Hobbs.

Wright was born in County Durham and by the age of 14, he was, in his own words, "much in love with mathematics" and "very much given to the amusements of drawing ... and buildings."

As architect and landscape gardener he worked for a series of noble patrons, including the Duke of Beaufort, the Earl of Essex and the Ansons of Shugborough.

Many of Wright's buildings were mock castles. Gothic follies and grottoes, often designed to be built of rustic materials such as stone, roots, unhewn timber and thatch, and covered with ivy, moss and honeysuckle.

The initial challenge was that the Menagerie had just one long show front. At the back had been the long-vanished enclosures for the animals. A young tiger, a bear, warthogs, storks and raccoons were noted by Horace Walpole who visited in 1763. Gervase introduced a central



The saloon is decorated with elaborate medallions showing the signs of the zodiac

lodge and built a second pair of end pavilions with bedrooms and bathrooms.

Then in about 1990 when the family sold their interest in Jackson-Stops & Staff, Gervase, without hesitation, decided to lavish his share on the house and garden.

The new garden was laid out by his friend Ian Kirby, a landscape gardener trained at Kew. He introduced a Wicked Garden full of spiky and thorny plants approached by a winding yellow brick road.

The main part of the garden is laid out like a goose's foot with three radiating walks. Between these, Gervase commissioned the architect Charles Morris to build two enchanting thatched pavilions, with roofs descending to the ground almost like tea caddies. These were inspired by Thomas Wright's designs for "Arbours and Grottoes". They represent the Classical and Gothic though Gervase, being an 18th-century man at heart, chose Strawberry Hill Gothic, not the serious 19th-century version.

The classical arbour has two porticoes, one doric, the other primitive with tree trunks for columns. Inside, the Gothic Arbour has Gothic furniture



The bedrooms are furnished in Gothic fashion

made by a local craftsman after designs by Hobbs, all of which can be had with the house.

As guest rooms they may be more unusual than comfortable but then Gervase was not above letting his guests savour the rigours of an 18th-century hermit for the weekend.

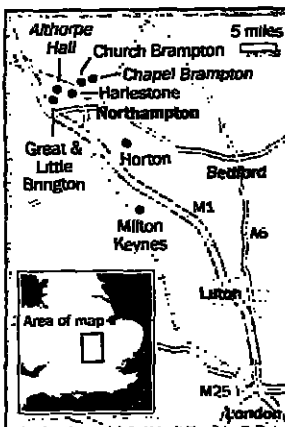
When it came to introducing a shell grotto beneath the house, hedonism knew no bounds. Shell grottoes are the fashion now but most owners build them as garden rooms. No so Gervase, who built his

with a sauna, shower and octagonal whirlpool, for all-year-round cavorting. With puckish wit, the faces of friends appear on keystones over arches beneath a ceiling encrusted with shells and minerals.

As the Menagerie grew, so did the standard of comfort. It comes with elegant book room, bathrooms more like map rooms, a kitchen garden, complete with its own workroom, and now a proper drive.

Agent: Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01604 63291

MARKET COMMENT



"A DECADE ago a national newspaper described Northamptonshire as the country's best-kept secret," says Richard Jones of estate agent Jackson-Stops & Staff in Northampton, "and people still haven't really discovered it."

He would say that of course, but the fact remains that it glories in pretty, understatedly English countryside, attractive villages and a usefully central location. The M1 runs straight through the middle, from London (70 miles south of Northampton) to Birmingham and the Midlands — about 55 miles up the road. London Euston is 55 minutes by train from Northampton.

The country market, therefore, is markedly influenced by London-based buyers who know a well-placed piece of real estate when they see one — 20 per cent of Jackson-Stops' sales go to people intending to commute to the capital on a daily or part-time basis.

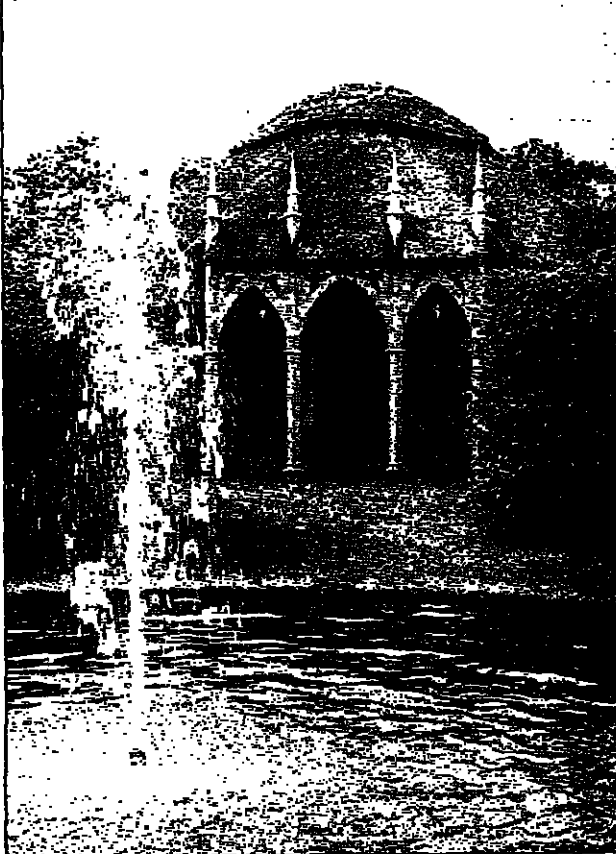
THEY ARE largely after the red ironstone Georgian and Queen Anne properties which predominate in this part. On average, a good-quality farmhouse or rectory will fetch £400,000-£600,000 with a few acres even for £300,000, you could find a solid five-bedroom farmhouse with a bit of land, but it would be smaller, less well-proportioned, and come with less acreage.

About £250,000 would buy a large detached cottage with half an acre of land, although a two-bedroom semi-detached village cottage could be found for as little as £80,000.

Some of the most popular villages in the area — Great and Little Brington, Church and Chapel Brampton, Harlestone — nestle in the shadow of Althorpe, Church Brampton is one of the most expensive enclaves in the county, commanding a 15-20 per cent premium over villages nearby.

But the opening of Althorpe House and the hordes of tourists due to descend on the area leaves a question mark over its continuing desirability.

FAITH GLASGOW



The pavilion's thatched roof almost reaches the ground

HOME SWAP

PROPERTY prices in Islington gained 16 per cent in the past year, according to Land Registry figures. The market is still very active with interest in large Georgian and Victorian terraced houses costing up to £800,000, say estate agent Foxtons. Popular areas include Canonbury, Barnsbury and Highbury. The area around Arsenal football ground is moving upward. Two-bedroom flats fetch from £125,000 to £165,000; a four-bedroom Victorian house from £250,000.

High prices in the Cotswolds are driving London buyers north and west to Herefordshire and the Welsh border, where prices are 20 per cent lower. A new dual carriageway from Swindon to Gloucester has cut the journey time from London to under three hours. Welsh border farmhouses are sought after, priced from £140,000.

Prices in east Devon are a third cheaper than prime Hampshire and Wiltshire. Smart seaside towns, such as Sidmouth are more expensive, with a two-bedroom detached bungalow starting at £100,000. Elsewhere, a two-up-two-down village house can be had from £60,000; a six-bedroom country house from £250,000.



For £149,950, you can buy this two-bedroom third-floor flat in the converted St. Clements Church, in Arundel Square, Islington, North London (Foxtons, 0171-704 5000).



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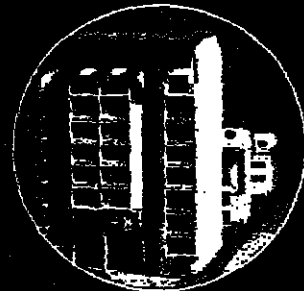
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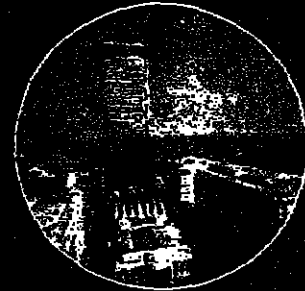
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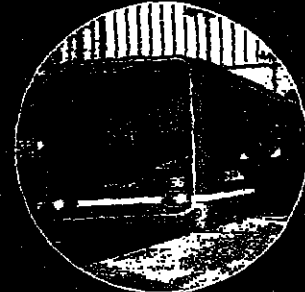
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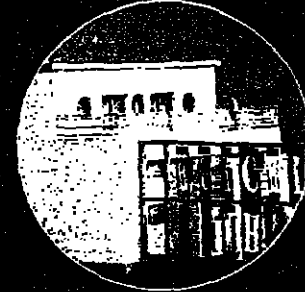
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Diary of a househunter

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TUESDAY
The estate agent calls us: the vendors are back and will accept £107,000.

WEDNESDAY
We take round a copy of the valuation report for the vendors, detailing three houses in Links Road which have sold for £95,000. The accompanying letter contains a final offer for £104,000.

THURSDAY
A handwritten reply arrives from the vendors describing the valuation



report as "incompetent". They offer a final price of £106,000.

FRIDAY
We realise we can't make it. We are stretched to our limit with a 95 per cent mortgage and a deposit borrowed from Mum. Interest rates are at 7.5 per cent and everyone is talking about the market slowing down. If we try to borrow the extra £2,000 we will be in debt; if we don't, we have wasted two months trying to buy this house. And we have to vacate our flat next week. I spend most of the day in tears.

EMMA MAHONY
Next week: moving to Esher

I've never done this before

As the economy slows, Rachel Kelly asks if now is the time for first-time buyers to make the move

First-time buyers should, in theory, be nervous. The most recent round of figures suggests that the housing market is slowing down. Is it really the time to leap on that ladder? New research shows that first-timers have changed. Their first house is now a place to nest, not invest, in a phrase originally coined by the former UBS housing market analyst John Wriglesworth.

The latest round of Halifax statistics shows that annual price rises are now slowing down to around 5 per cent and interest rates have risen to 7.5 per cent. These figures count for surprisingly little in the plans of most first-timers.

For a start, the Halifax also shows that prices paid by first-time buyers continued to rise in May by 1.1 per cent, reaching a national average of £52,373. Anyway, most first-time buyers no longer pore over such figures. Gone are the days when people were frantic to buy. Instead, first-timers want a home they can enjoy and one that will cost no more to own than to rent.

Monique du Mar, 32, is a marketing manager for a venture capital fund. She is looking for a flat in Islington, north London, and brushes aside talk of a bust.

"To a degree, I'd consider a property based on what I could afford to pay each month rather than by reacting to the housing market," she says. "By buying a house I'm investing in the future and paying almost the same on a mortgage each month that I'd pay for my monthly rent anyway."

Kaivi Ekue is a freelance IT consultant in his late twenties who is working in the City.

He has just bought his first flat in Crown Mansions, a conversion of a former Fulney school, through agents Allen Brigial.

"I had been renting since I left university. Initially, it was great, as it gave me time to concentrate on my City career," he says. "But I was spending a lot on rent. I started investigating the cost of a mortgage about five months

ago, and realised it made more sense to look for something to buy."

The views of Mr Ekue and Ms du Mar are confirmed by a Halifax survey published this week. Only 4 per cent of first-time buyers suggested that a lack of confidence in the housing market affected their ability to buy.

First-timers are in fact buying in ever greater numbers. CML figures show that the number of loans for first-time buyers has risen from 419,000 in 1995, to 501,000 in 1997.

Their concern is the bunfight that is the current market. Sue Beaumont, manager of General Accident Property Service, in Sevenoaks, Kent, says: "The main problem is not the slight slowdown in prices, but the lack of properties for sale."

Statistics show that there are expected to be around 1.2 million sales this year, and the market has yet to recover to the "normal" levels of 1.5 million transactions per year.

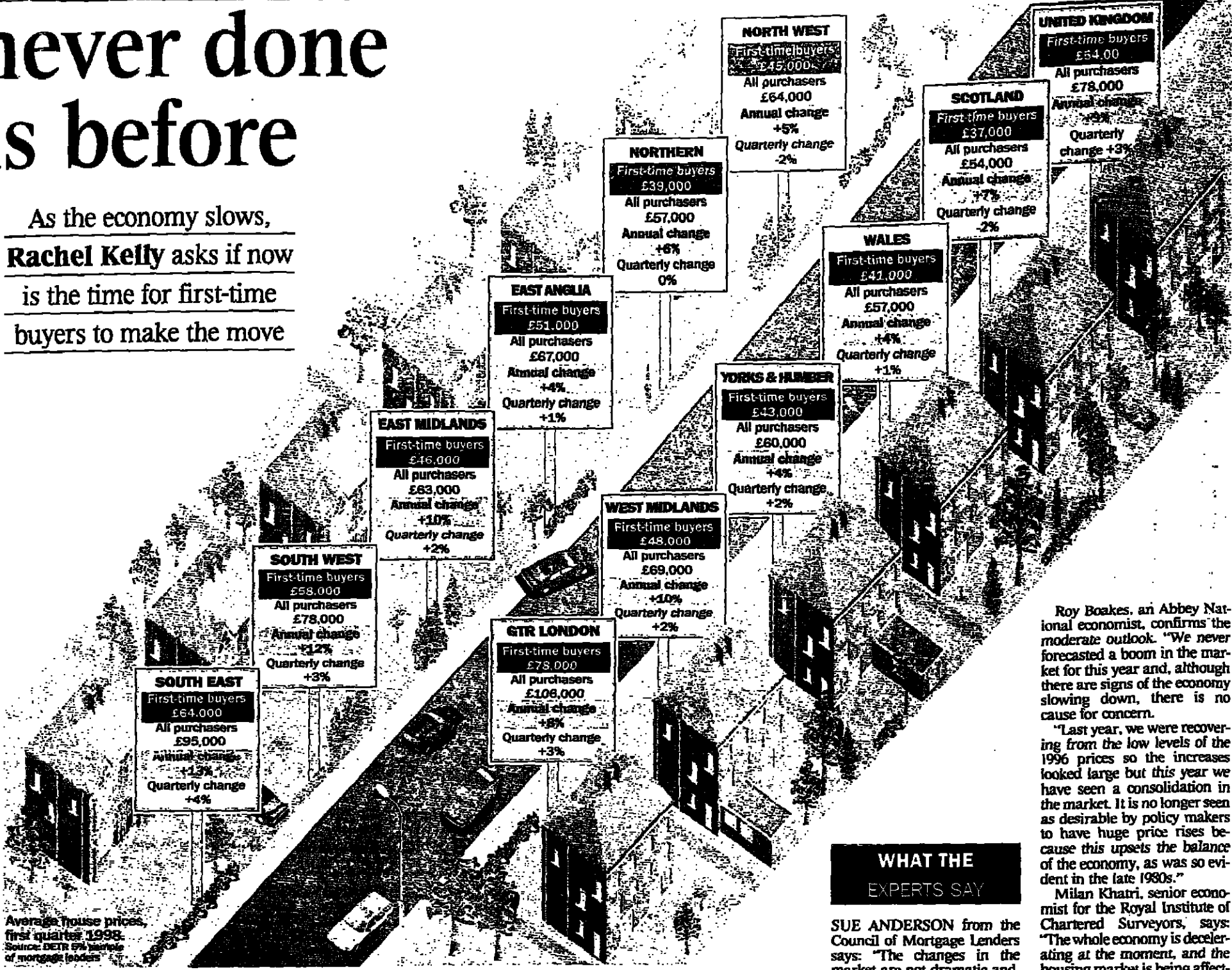
Ms du Mar has three times failed to buy an Islington flat.

Either the agent has failed to tell her some key fact about the property, or the flats have been hugely overpriced. She is currently a third of the way through her fourth attempt to buy a home, this time through Hampsons which has pleasantly surprised her.

"The whole process has been traumatic," she says. "I feel that I have been let down by several estate agents who have not catered for my needs as a first-time

buyer. I've had to do all the research myself with little help or thought from my agents. I have had to chase them constantly. I would also like to see the time process cut. I have seen an increase in the demand for property within the past year. More agents are attached to each property, meaning that the days when there was time to have a second viewing are long gone."

If the Chancellor were to further increase interest rates, demand among first-time buyers could wane.



Average house prices, first quarter 1998. Source: Halifax Housing of mortgage lenders.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

SUE ANDERSON from the Council of Mortgage Lenders says: "The changes in the market are not dramatic and, although individual incomes vary, and therefore affect peoples' circumstances differently, there is no good reason for first-timers to hold back. "People no longer buy a house to make a profit." Mark Hemmingway from the Halifax says: "First-time buyers may suffer from the psychological impact of any further increases in interest rates. So far, the rises have been steady. But if they were to increase dramatically, the confidence of new buyers would be shaken."

Roy Boakes, an Abbey National economist, confirms the moderate outlook. "We never forecasted a boom in the market for this year and, although there are signs of the economy slowing down, there is no cause for concern."

"Last year, we were recovering from the low levels of the 1996 prices so the increases looked large but this year we have seen a consolidation in the market. It is no longer seen as desirable by policy makers to have huge price rises because this upsets the balance of the economy, as was so evident in the late 1980s."

Milan Khatri, senior economist for the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, says: "The whole economy is decelerating at the moment, and the housing market is being affected by this. There is also a dampening in interest from the Far East."

Ian Homersham, joint chairman of estate agent John D. Wood and Co, says: "The mortgage rate increase will make purchasing harder especially as there are fewer houses on the market. Demand is high and people will be able to afford less. First-time buyers have to be cautious about finding a property and a mortgage that they can afford."

Additional research by Jon Stinson

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The return of the prodigal

Exiled bishop Eamonn Casey waits for Rome to decide if he can return to Ireland, writes Audrey Magee

In a dusty South American village, Eamonn Casey, the disgraced Irish bishop, waits patiently for news from Rome where the Vatican will shortly decide whether he can end his six-year exile and return to Ireland.

Lonely and in deteriorating health, the 71-year-old former Bishop of Galway is yearning to return to his friends and family. He believes he has done his penance for fathering a child with American divorcee Annie Murphy, but is waiting for Rome to agree with him.

He has already secured clearance to return from the majority of the 34 Irish bishops, but the final decision rests with the Congregation of Bishops. The Congregation, headed by Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, has been considering the matter and is expected to make a decision shortly, possibly before they break for summer recess in July. The question of his return has been given added urgency as Dr Casey's five-year contract as a missionary in Ecuador ends next week.

"Like most of the bishops in Ireland, I do not have any difficulty with his returning," said Willy Walsh, Bishop of Killaloe, a west-of-Ireland diocese. "I think generally that people feel that at his age it would not be fair to prevent him from returning. He has in some ways paid a fairly heavy price for what happened."

Dr Casey fled Ireland in shame in 1992 after Ms



Bishop Eamonn Casey, 71, left, wants to return home to Ireland, and his son, Peter, with his mother Annie Murphy

Murphy revealed details of their brief but passionate affair that yielded a son. The scandal was compounded by the discovery that Dr Casey had taken £70,000 from Galway diocesan funds to pay for the upkeep of his now 24-year-old son, Peter. The Bishop's behaviour was a shock to Ireland where the Catholic Church still commanded enormous respect.

Dr Casey retired as Bishop of Galway but he retains the title of Bishop and is even permitted to wear his robes. He initially hid under an assumed name in a monastery in Aspen, Colorado. He then took up missionary work with the Boston-based St James Society and was posted as curate to

San Miguel de los Bancos, an impoverished village of 5,000 people northwest of Ecuador's capital, Quito.

Irish journalists who have visited him in the one-street village on the edge of the rain-forest tell of his hankering for Ireland, particularly the west of Ireland where he grew up and served as bishop.

People in Ireland had adored his flair and the energy which he used to tackle homelessness in Ireland and England. He set up Shelter to provide housing for the homeless in England and Trocree to raise funds in Ireland for the developing world. His flamboyant love of singing and fine claret endeared him even further.



But in 1994, when he briefly returned from exile, the reception from the Irish public and clergy for their former favourite bishop was hostile. He was condemned for his decision to dress in full bishop's attire to co-consecrate the funeral of his brother-in-law, Desmond Connell, the Archbishop of Dublin, said that people were "utterly shocked" when they saw him in episcopal insignia. "The scandal is still there," said Dr Connell at the time.

In the intervening four years, however, the Catholic Church in Ireland has been so rocked by child sex abuse scandals that Dr Casey's sin seems minor and harmless. Ivan Payne, the Dublin priest, this

week became the 31st Roman Catholic priest in Ireland to be convicted of child sexual abuse. Parishioners are turning their backs on Sunday mass and seminaries are threatened with closure because of rapidly falling numbers. The return of Dr Casey would be a welcome diversion for the beleaguered Church.

The Irish clergy will allow Dr Casey back only on condition that he retires as bishop and sits quietly in a small west of Ireland parish. They do not want a repeat of the 1994 scenes. "Staying quiet will be the hard part for him because he is naturally a gregarious and active person," said one bishop who declined to be named.

"But on the other hand, Bishop Casey has been a man who would always be very traditional in his obedience to Rome. His loyalty to Rome would be a very strong part of his makeup."

Dr Casey now refuses to give interviews, even to people who travel thousands of miles from Ireland to see him. He last talked to the press in 1994 when he said: "I consider myself to be a much better person today in terms of strength, in terms of faith, in terms of closeness to God, in terms of being totally at ease with myself." But the bishops are still nervous about his return. There are few precedents for this sort of homecoming. Roderick Wright, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, has not attempted to be re-integrated into the church in Scotland following his decision two years ago to run off with divorced nurse, Kathleen McPhee.

The most high-profile prodigal son in the British Isles is Brendan Connolly, the Bishop of Ferns, who returned to Ireland in 1996 after five months at an alcohol addiction treatment centre in the US. He had fled the country when it emerged that money was missing from the diocese.

Arthur Pennell, Ms Murphy's partner, sought in 1995 to persuade Dr Connolly to allow Dr Casey to return "both for his sake and for the country's as Ireland can't afford to lose men like Eamonn Casey". But the possibility only started to gather momentum in November when *The Irish Times* called on the hierarchy to allow him return.

"We have a great capacity in Ireland to knock people when they are up and lift them when they are down," said Dr Walsh. "I think there would be a very compassionate welcome for him as most people would feel he is entitled to spend the remainder of his years in peace and quiet."

Celebrating with nuns



Ruth Gledhill finds a tranquil haven near Marble Arch

BARELY NOTICEABLE between the offices, grand houses and hotels of the Bayswater Road, except for those who know to look for it, the enclosed Benedictine convent which is home to the Tyburn nuns has become a vital, heavenly retreat for those seeking an escape from the pressures of London life without having to travel far to find it, physically at least.

The convent is a centre of pilgrimage because of, and is also named after, the martyrs who died on the infamous Tyburn Field scaffold between 1535 and 1681, where criminals were also executed for six centuries.

The nuns, who exercise by playing football, are celebrating the centenary of their foundation by Marie-Adele Garnier, a French mystic for whom the Mass was "the sun of her life" and who believed that nothing less than perpetual adoration of the "Blessed Sacrament" could satisfy her longing to "surround the divine Heart with a continual homage of love and reparation". An official "cause" for her canonisation has been set up.

Life at the convent is built around perpetual adoration of the sacrament, as well as the seven services, from nocturns at 5.30am to complete, which make up the liturgy of the hours. There is also work, study, choir practice and recreation.

There is a beautifully tended garden. Mother Xavier, a dynamic New Zealander who is the Mother General, has written a book, *Love's Figure*, which has been commended by the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, as "wonderful" and where she has herself translated the Song of Songs from the original Hebrew to examine it as a metaphor for

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MUSIC: Choir of nuns with organ music. ★ ★ ★ ★

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woman's desire for human love, as well as an individual's longing for Christ.

Our principal celebrant at the Mass was the new Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pablo Ponce, who spoke with passion. We had readings from Romans and Luke. "The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us", we heard. The nuns said prayers for the community and the world. The Liturgy of the Eucharist began with Tyburn's own version of *Sancet, Venite*, based on the earliest known Western hymn to the eucharist, preserved in the *Antiphony of Bangor*.

The faces of the nuns, young and old, seemed transformed by some inner light as they sang the haunting melody. "Their hunger feeds, their thirst quenches, as Living Spring, as Hidden Leaven", they sang, and it was impossible not to feel touched by their passion. Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place, London, W2 2LJ (0171-223 7262)



The choir of nuns rejoice their foundation's centenary

Changed days indeed. The previous government was and of advising the church to eschew politics and concentrate on "spiritual" concerns.

Last week, I heard the Labour backbencher who proposed the age of consent amendment suggest to a bishop on the BBC that the church should stop interfering in questions of personal morality and focus on social problems instead!

Thankfully, most thoughtful Christians and all the main denominations in this country are clear that both of these are false alternatives. The Church's calling comes from its King and Head, who is to be obeyed before any human authority. That calling is both pastoral and prophetic, concerned with both personal ethics and social engagement.

Even for those like myself, raised within an evangelical tradition known for its preoccupation with the personal and the eternal, the vision of "the wide gospel for the whole person" was clearly spelled out by leaders such as John Stott.

Going where the angels fear to tread

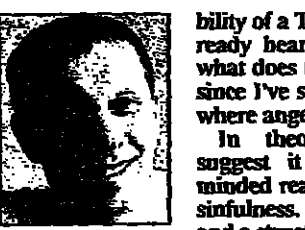
One reason I am intrigued by the current government debate over the Third Way is that for the past 21 years, the leading journal of evangelical social comment in Britain has been a magazine called — you guessed it — *Third Way*. The name was chosen to reflect the drive for a Christian social vision which refused the rigid polarisation of left and right and aimed for a distinctive biblically formed position.

Earlier this month, I was in Slovakia attending a conference of young Eastern European Christian thinkers and found my own left-leaning prejudices challenged by



DOUG GAY

their suspicion of all things socialist. It was a healthy rebuke, but even as I took it, I remained sceptical of the mixed blessings free-market reforms are bringing to their societies. In a situation where left-right language no longer works, what seemed vital was precisely the possi-



DOUG GAY

bility of a Third Way. I can already hear the cries — "But what does that mean?" — and since I've started, I'll carry on where angels fear to tread. In theological terms, I suggest it means a tough-minded realism about human sinfulness, at both a personal and a structural level, matched by a tough-minded idealism about our human vocation, individually and socially. To have the first without the second leads to the decadence of the Right. The second without the first brings the totalitarianism of the Left.

The term is also helpful because it highlights the fact that what we are

talking about a way, about life as discipleship, as apprenticeship, as experiment. In this way of life, the church is called to be the school or laboratory or workshop in which we try to live as citizens of God's new society.

Paul's great metaphor of the one body with many parts, discerned and discovered above all in the Lord's Supper, is both a challenge to the church and a gift to a world in which some stuff themselves while others starve. The vision of a Third Way calls us to Christian freedom in our political involvement. It can produce feminists who choose to be pro-life, wealth creators who refuse to become personally rich and re-distributors motivated by love rather than envy. We read in the book of Acts that the early Christians were known as the people of The Way. It seems if an alternative is to be believed, it must also be lived.

● Doug Gay is Minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Church in Hackney

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BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC: 11 Ordination of Deacons. Harwood in A. Rev. Ch. E.
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Ch. M. 10.30 Euchar. Mass for four voices (Byrd). Canon Henry; 4 Ch. E.
BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 11 Euchar. Missa L' hora passa (Mozart); 3 Ordination service. Rev. A. J. Croden.
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Ch. Euchar. Ordination: 3.30 Ch. E. Collegium regale (Taverner).
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M: 10.30 Ordination of Deacons. Canonbury mass (Pocock); 3.15 E. Chichester service (Walton); 6.30 Vernon & Compaine.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC: 10.30 Ordination Euchar. Darke in F. 3 E. Murray in E.
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC: Rev. I. Mood; 9.30 Euchar; 11 Ordination of Deacons. Jackson in G. 6 Ch. E.
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC: 10 Ordination. Rutter in D. Bishop of Chester: 3.30 E. Dyson in F. 3 D. ES.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M: 11 S Euchar. Sumson in F. 3 D. ES.
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: Dublin: 11 S Euchar. Stanton in G & B flat: 3.30 Ordination of priests.
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: Oxford: 8 HC: 10.30 Patenide ordination. Darke in E. 6 E. Stanton in G.
DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.45 S Euchar. Stanton in C. Rev. M. Taylor; 6 Ch. E. A. Hall; gladtrinit; 11 S.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 MP: 10 Ordination: 3.30 E. The Gloucester service (Howells).
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euchar. Schubert in C. Canon J. Inge; 3.45 E. St John's service (Tippet).
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 M: 10 Ordination. Rev. D. Glyn-Johnson; 3 E. Responses. Canon Henry; 4 Ch. E.
GLoucester CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.15 Ordination by Bishop of Gloucester. Mozart in B. 12.15 HC: 3 E. Gresh service (Barry).
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 MP: 10 Ordination of Deacons. A. Almighty God who by thy son (Gibbons); 6.30 ES.
HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 8 HC: 10.30 Ordination. Ireland in C. Bishop of Ludlow; 3.30 E. Collegium regale (Howells).
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M: 10.30 Ordination. Little Channon Mass (Haydn); 4 Ch. E. Purcell in G. Canon: 6 St John's Ambulance service.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Ordination. Jackson in G; 3.30 E. Gray in F.
- LINCOLN CATHEDRAL:** 7.45 L: 8 HC: 9.30 M: 10.30 Ordination. Schubert in G; 12.30 HC: 3.45 E. Gloucester service (Howells).
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 Ordination. Rev. B. Dickinson; 3 Ch. E. 4 HC.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M: 9 Euchar: 10.30 S Euchar. Collegium regale (Howells); Bishop of Manchester: 6.30 E. Short service (Ayleward).
NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 8 HC: 9.30 Ordination of Deacons: 6 Ch. E. Beati quorum via (Stanford).
NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euchar: 10.30 M. Stanford in B flat: 6.30 S Euchar. Darke in A minor.
NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC: 11 Ordination of Deacons: 3.30 E. Second service (Leighton); 6.30 EP.
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M & L: 10.30 Ordination: 3.30 E. St John's service (Near): 8 Organ recital: German Torle.
PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Ch. M. 10.30 Euchar. Mass of St Thomas (Thorndike); 11.15 Ordination of priests: 6 E. Blessed city (Bairdwell).
RIPON CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 8 HC: 9.30 Euchar. 11 Diocesan Euchar with ordination: 12.30 Euchar: 3.30 E. Second service (Leighton).
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M: 10.30 S Euchar. Messe solennelle (Langlais); 3.15 E. Wood in F.
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 MP: 10.30 Ordination: 3 Ch. E. Rubbra in A flat. Canon D. Durston.
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 MP: 10.30 Ordination. Schubert in G; 6.30 Festival E. Dyson in D.
SOUTHWAKE CATHEDRAL: 9 Euchar: 11 Ch. Euchar. I was glad (Parry); Rev. A. Wingate; 3 Ch. E. Coventry service (Whitnam).
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L: 8 HC: 9.15 Ch. E. Ordination of Deacons: 3.15 E. Collegium regale (Ward).
TURKO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M: 10 S Euchar. Communion mass (Mozart); 3 Crematorium memorial service: 6 E.
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 C: 11 Patenide Ordination: 6.30 St E.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 Ordination: 3 Ch. E. Stewart in C.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 11.15 Euchar. Spazemann; (Mozart). Rt Rev. P. Roderick; 3 E. Jackson in G; 5.45 Choir recital: Trinity College Melbourne; 6.30 ES.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7. 8. 9 M: 10.30 Sol Missa. Messe solennelle (Vieljeux); 12 Mass: 2-15 Recital: Charles Cole; 6.30 Sol V & B. O. eucharistia hostia (Vieljeux); 3.30 Sol V & B. O. eucharistia hostia (Vieljeux); 6.30 ES. Canon D. Gray.
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 10 Ordination of Deacons. Collegium regale (Howells). Canon T. Finner; 3.30 E. Responses (Ross); Canon P. Morgan; 6 Free Churches service.
- YORK MINSTER:** 7.30 M: 8.45 HC: 10 Ordination of Deacons. Osrike in G. Canon R. Giles; 4 E. Lord thou hast been our refuge (Vaughan Williams); Rev. J. Robertson.
ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL: Hertfordshire: Rev. P. S. Euchar: 11.15 Patenide ordination. Vaughan Williams in G minor: 6.30 E.
ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL: Aberdeen: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euchar. Ireland in C: 6.30 Ch. E. Stanton in A.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL: Denbighshire: 8 HC: 11 Ch. M. Rev. M. Ivey; 3.30 EP.
ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL: Pembrokeshire: 7.30 Boned Westli; 8 HC: 9.30 Cymru; Rev. P. S. Euchar: 11.15 Patenide ordination: 6 Ch. E. Hail glauding light (Wood).
ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Ordination S Euchar. Canon L. Webster; 3.30 Ch. E. Westminster service (Howells).
ST FIN BARRRE CATHEDRAL: Cork: 8 Euchar: 11.15 Ch. Euchar. Withshire service (Shepherd); Rev. P. S. Euchar: 11.15 Patenide ordination: 6 Ch. E. Hail glauding light (Wood).
ST GILES CATHEDRAL: Edinburgh: 8. 10 HC: 11.30 MS. Hymn to St Peter (Britten); 6 St Giles' at 8. ES. Very Rev. Dr W. B. R. Macmillan.
ST MACHAK'S CATHEDRAL: Old Aberdeen: 11 HC: 6 Rev. R. Frazer.
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: Edinburgh: 8 Euchar: 10.30 S Euchar. Missa papae marcelli (Palestrina); 3.30 Ch. E.
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL: Dublin: 8.30 Euchar: 11.15 S Euchar. Sumson in F. Rev. S. Stacey; 3.15 Ch. E. Dyson in D.
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL: SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy. Kievan and traditional polyphony. Met. Anthony.
ALL SAINTS: W1: 8.15 M: 10.20 MP: 11 M. Messe solennelle (Langlais); Rev. J. Rick: 11.15 M: 6 E & B. Blair in B minor.
ALL SOULS: W1: 8.30, 11.30, 6.30 Thanksgiving and gift day.
THE ASSUMPTION: W1: 11 Missa Petre ego pro te rogavi (Lobell).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH: SW3: 8 HC: 10 Children's Service: 11 M: 12.15 HC: 6 E. Mr E. Royce.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: WC2: 11.15, 6.30 Rev. S. Hood.
FARM STREET: W1: 8.30 LM: 11 HM. Messe solennelle (Langlais); 12.30 LM: 4.15 Mass: 4.15 LM.
HOLY TRINITY: Sloane Street: 8.45 Euchar: 11 S Euchar. Only in C major.
THE ORATORY: SW7: 7.5, 9, 11 M: 12.30 Mass: 3.30 V & B. Tu es Petrus (Hassler); 4.30, 7.30 V.
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: W8: 11 Holy Mass. Archbishop V. Glazarian.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL: EC2: 9.45 HC: 11 MS. Rev. Dr L. Griffiths.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL: (Metropolitan): 11 MP: 6.30 EP. Rev. Dr S. A. Anwil.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES: (Lutheran). Gresham St. EC2: 11 Ch. Euchar: 7 Jazz Vespers. Rev. P. D. Schmitzke.
- ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT:** EC1: 9 HC: 11 M. Short service (Gibbons); 6.30 Ch. Euchar.
ST BRIDE'S: EC4: 11 Ch. Euchar. Stainer in D. Confirm the hope (Watson). A prayer for the Church (Probyn); 2.30 Ch. E. Darke in F. Lord thou hast been our refuge (Williams).
ST CLEMENT DANE: WC2: 11 Ch. Euchar. Mass for four voices (Byrd). Rev. D. Maclellan.
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: SW1: 11.3 HC: 6.30. Very Rev. J. H. Melrose.
ST F. HELDREDAS: EC1: 11 S. Mass. Messe solennelle (Gullmann).
ST JAMES'S: Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euchar. John Paul.
ST JAMES'S CHURCH: W1: 9.15 HC: 11 S Euchar. Rev. H. Valentine; 5.45 EP.
ST JOHN'S: E15: 11 Sunday together. Toccatina and fugue (Rager). Rev. R. Richards: 6.30 HC; Rev. M. Okello.
ST MARK'S: SW1: 8 HC: 9.45 Family C: 11 S Euchar. Darke in E. Rev. T. Devonshire-Jones.
ST MARGARET'S: SW1: 10 Ch. M. Responses (Leighton). Britten in C. Rev. D. Hunt.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Euchar: 11.30 Visitors Service: 2.45 Chinese Service: 5 Ch. E. 6.30 ES.
ST MARY'S: SW1: 9, 10 LM: 11 HM. Missa us regine caelorum (Victoria); 6 Sol E & B. Canon J. Halliburton.
ST MARY-THÉ-VIRGIN: NW3: 10.30 S Euchar. Mass for five voices (Byrd).
ST MARVLEBORNE: NW1: 8 HC: 11 Ch. Euchar. Messe solennelle (Langlais). Prof. J. Caldwell.
ST PAUL'S: SW1: 8, 9 HC: 11 Sol Euchar. Ave Maria (Brahms). Missa brevis (Britten). Rev. N. Dawson.
ST PETERS: SW1: 8.15 HC: 10 Family Euchar: 11 S Euchar. Tu es Petrus (Palestrina). Fr. Ian Tillyer.
ST ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA: HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: 11 M. Short service (Weekes). Rev. P. R. C. Abrar.
CHAPEL ROYAL St James's Palace: S30 HC: 11.15 MP. Hear my prayer (Purcell). Canon G. Hall.
GROBYENOR CHAPEL: South Audley St. W1: 11 Euchar. Ave Maria (Bruckner).
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY: WC2: 11 M: A: Give us the wings of faith (Bullock). The Chantain. 12.30 HC.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH: EC4: 8.30, 11.15 HC: Tu es Petrus (Palestrina). The Master. GUARDS CHAPEL Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 W. Band of the Blues and Royals. Rev. T. A. Cole: 12 HC.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL: SE10: 11 S Euchar. Ireland in C. Rev. R. Norton. ● Compiled by Deborah King.

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CHANGING TIMES

If you want a chimp, you'll need a zoo too

Recently the actress Liz Hurley was pictured with chimps in the African jungle as part of a Born Free Foundation campaign to save the creatures. She said: "I've been obsessed with chimpanzees ever since I can remember and often thought how I'd like to own one. When you look deep into a chimp's eyes, you seem to see all the wisdom in the world."

Many people have fallen for chimps as pets, but as Ms Hurley says: "I now realise that it would actually be horribly cruel to the chimp. Wild animals are not supposed to live with humans in houses or, even worse, in cages."

When they are small, primates are cute and appealing, but when they grow up they become more focused on dismantling your home. Monkeys have lots of things not going for them as pets. They have sharp teeth, volatile natures, a devastating effect on furnishings and as they mature they prefer the company of other monkeys. This could be why we rarely see the singer Michael Jackson with his chimp, Bubbles. As an adult male, Bubbles could now top ten stone, so his cuddle and manageability factors are likely to have faded faster than a flop album.

Today in Britain, since the introduction of the 1976 Dangerous Wild Animals Act, you have to be an approved zoo or specially licensed individual to keep monkeys. America

Monkeys may be cute and cuddly when they are young, but they do not make good house pets, writes Carol Price

has even stricter requirements, which is why when Jackson got Bubbles he also had the extra little outlay of the zoo to go with him.

Before 1976, primates were common pets here. Molly Badham, a primate expert and director at Twycross Zoo in Leicestershire, remembers all too well the first chimp she brought home from a London pet shop in the Sixties: "It was after she had bitten two friends that it became clear that it was the guests we had to lock in the spare bedrooms. She was lovely, but you need to be firm. They have to learn the word 'no' as early as possible."

Dick Shiel had additional problems when he set up a monkey sanctuary in Ramsgate, Kent, which rescued many primates from research laboratories. He inherited a chimp called Melody which — courtesy of a past research work — arrived with a 20-a-day cigarette habit.

Mr Shiel says: "Weaning her off the fags was a job and a half, to say the least. If she didn't get them she was tense, neurotic, screaming — a bit like you'd expect in a human under the same circumstances."

"It didn't seem fair to make her go from 20 to zero without help. We eventually got her down to six a day

which she could smoke only in a segregated area while we stood by with a fire extinguisher. But she was bright enough to turn those six into 12 by breaking them in half, so we were still stuck with a problem."

Monkeys are still being used in smoking experiments in Japan, according to the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, and in other laboratory research worldwide. "Although Melody lived to be 23," says Mr Shiel, "it might have been 40 if it wasn't for the fags."

Jim Cronin, a former head primate keeper at the Bronx Zoo in New York who is now director of the Monkey World Rescue Centre in Wareham, Dorset, thinks it is still far too easy in Britain for inexperienced owners to get monkeys. He describes the procedure for issuing the required special licences as "totally inadequate."

"All you need as a private owner is one local vet and local environmental officer to say yes. What do they know about monkeys? There are only about half a dozen vets in this country who are primate experts," he says.

As a result, a stream of new inmates is joining the existing 45 chimps and 110 other monkeys of various species at Monkey World. "Many of them were and still are too readily available through small ads or pet shops," says Mr Cronin, "particularly smaller, popular varieties here like vervets, macaques, marmosets and capuchins which people think are cute until they bite them."

Mr Cronin says that marmosets suffer in Britain particularly, because you do not need a special licence to own one. Because they have one rather than two sets of canine teeth this, in theory, makes them less dangerous.

A chimp rescued from a shed in Barcelona — his owner bought him from a circus, then he grew too big to handle — and a woolly monkey

confiscated from the home of a woman in Norwich — she smuggled it here under her arm on a flight from Bogota — are, says Mr Cronin, two recent Monkey World acquisitions which should not have been pets but were. He understands too well the appeal of monkeys: "They are so wonderfully, if not scarily, like us." He is still adamant that the only place for them is with their own kind, under expert supervision.

Ms Hurley and the Born Free Foundation are establishing a 100-acre island sanctuary for chimpanzees that have been rescued from smugglers in Uganda.

She supports Mr Cronin in appealing to would-be owners: "Please don't get one. I'm only going to have to deal with it later."

● Monkey World (0800 456600); Twycross Zoo (01527 880200); Born Free Foundation (01403 240170)



Liz Hurley, with the Born Free Foundation, is helping to set up a 100-acre sanctuary for rescued primates

A VET WRITES

Q I'm worried about my cat Bertie. He is always washing his feet to the extent that he makes his paws sore. What can I do?

A Find out why Bertie has developed this washing mania. Constant licking is an irritant. Washing his feet daily using a mild shampoo or baby soap will help. If this DIY treatment doesn't work, see your vet. But remember that good information helps your vet make a speedy diagnosis.

Q Our parakeet plucks his feathers which makes him look bedraggled. We have put mite powder all over him so we're fairly sure that is not the cause. Our next step was to ask the pet store if it could get us another bird to keep him company. The pet shop said the two birds would fight, but other people tell me they would not. Who is right?

A If mite powder hasn't helped it is unlikely that to be parasites. Boredom is a more credible explanation. Putting another bird into his cage will cause reactions. Introducing another bird in a separate cage provides company without conflict. Put the two cages side by side — bars touching — so the birds can touch beaks. After a few weeks try letting them mix either free in the room or in a third cage.

Q Our 13-year-old Bichon Frise has developed warts. Some of them bleed. Our vet thinks it unwise to give a general anaesthetic as there is a heart murmur.

A In elderly dogs warts are part of the ageing process. Bleeding warts are a nuisance. Ask your vet about removing the bleeding warts using a local anaesthetic or freezing them away.

JAMES ALLEOCK

● Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.



Some chimps rescued from laboratories came with a smoking habit

ADOPT ME

PUSH AND Shove are nine-week-old female Saanen goats which have been brought to Wood Green Animal Shelters. Push and Shove are affectionate goats and like being with people, but would need a home with an experienced goat owner with access to a paddock with secure fencing.

If you would like to adopt Push and Shove, please contact Wood Green Animal Shelters (01480 830014), quoting references Push KG191 and Shove KG190.

Push and Shove, the Saanen goats

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

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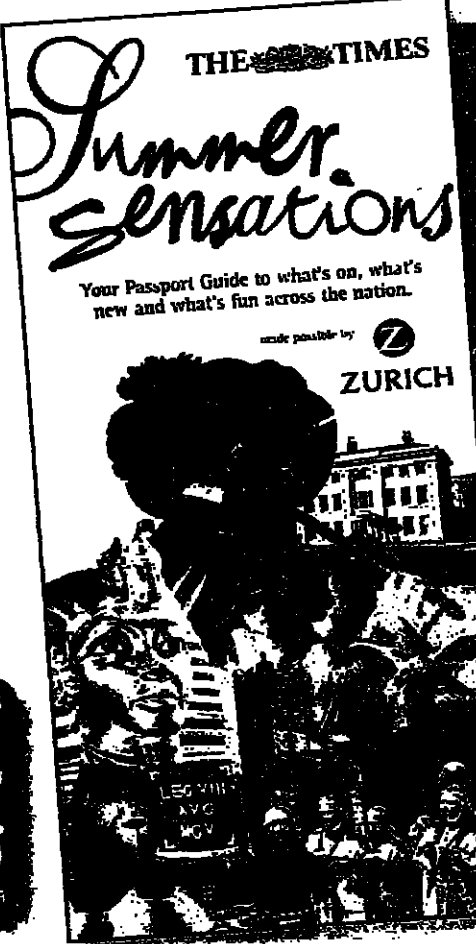
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At the **DINOSAUR MUSEUM**, Dorchester, Dorset, Passport holders will be able to save up to £3.50. This award-winning museum allows you to go back in time with a hands-on look at the world of dinosaurs through fossils, skeletons and life size reconstructions.

All this combined with the latest technology is a treat for the whole family.

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The imaginative audio tours at **PENHOW CASTLE**, Newport, Wales, have won eight awards. The enchanting knights' border fortress has been lovingly restored by the present owner. Passport holders can save up to £3.35.

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CHANGING TIMES

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'It feels as if I have failed as a parent when my little boy admits that he's not really interested in the World Cup'

Caught offside by son's apathy

The thing is," said Alexander, crashing into my bedroom at first light and resting his horrible little cold feet on my warm tummy. "I'm not mad about the World Cup."

Not so loud, Alexander, for God's sake. There might be a social worker within earshot, and we all know that children whose mummies have failed to bring them up to understand the offside rule and know all the words to The Ref's A get taken away and made into wards of court.

Since then, I have been trying to do better, but it is no use. Ten days or so ago, I found myself saying vaguely to Alexander as we drove up the hill to school: "Darling, do you know why all these cars seem to be flying the Swiss flag?" "Mu-um," said Alexander rolling his eyes, "that's not the Swiss flag. The Swiss flag is red with a white cross."

Age of about 18 months, he began to display a pronounced interest in tractors, diggers and heavy plant of all sorts. These are things to which I don't suppose I'd given a moment's thought in three decades, but they are now so embedded in my psyche that the other day I started a sensitive fellow whom I was driving to the opera by screaming at a burned-rubber halt on the Lewes road and bellowing: "Look, on the left! Low loader with a John Deere on it!"

mention their couch-potato daddies, who would probably fall down dead if they attempted to dribble a ball to the end of the garden path. And yet they all seem to be glued to the telly, transfixed by replays of dramatic moments between Greenland and Larvia, and the interminable post-match inquests of that extraordinary collection of commentators, with their ineffable hairdos and criminal lies.

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

He is a gentle little boy. It is hard to imagine him tackling anyone. On the other hand, you could say the same of thousands of other boys his age (not to

the South Africans. (I've now fallen hopelessly in love with Fraser, what with his desperate, Rourke's Drift gallantry and his shambling elegance, which somehow makes everyone who stands near him look like an ugly mug.)

Cancer's ultimate irony

Professor Tom Connors tells Aileen Ballantyne about his fight for life

The life's work of Professor Tom Connors, one of the country's leading drug development specialists, has taken on a new dimension. After dedicating his career to finding drugs that cure cancer — a quest to which thousands of men owe their lives — he was diagnosed in April last year as having prostate cancer, the second most common cancer killer in men.

ANATOMY OF A KILLER ■ Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer killer in men in the UK, after lung cancer. It causes more than 9,600 deaths every year. ■ In men in their 50s or 60s it is almost always fatal. Half of all cases, however, occur in men aged over 75. ■ A gene discovered by the Cancer Research Campaign could hold the key to the cause of the disease and improve prospects of effective screening. The genetic "marker" could also help to determine if the cancer is fast or slow growing and improve treatment.



Professor Tom Connors, a cancer research specialist, has dedicated his career to saving lives and now, in a tragic irony, has himself been diagnosed with prostate cancer

The prognosis for prostate cancer remains far less promising. Professor Connors' own cancer initially responded to the widely used anti-androgen treatment, but has recently shown signs of recurrence. Ironically, the new experimental treatment available for cancer of the prostate, to be used if all the tested remedies fail, is one of an impressive armoury of weapons he has helped to create. It is an offshoot of cisplatin, developed by the Institute of Cancer Research, which is effectively a new form of platinum drug which can be taken in tablet

form. It is showing promising results in early trials. As the former director of the Medical Research Council's Toxicology Unit, drug treatments trip readily off his tongue. He is matter-of-fact about them even when his own life depends on their efficacy. He knows that, even for him, the development of a new drug cannot be rushed.

slightly unconventional university lecturer, something of a bon vivant who clearly has a finer appreciation of the finer things in life. Like many of the handful of truly brilliant scientists who have made real progress in recent history, Professor Connors believes that getting on with fellow scientists is crucial to the creative process of discovery. It is in the evenings at large conferences, after the slides and lectures are over, that they let their hair down.

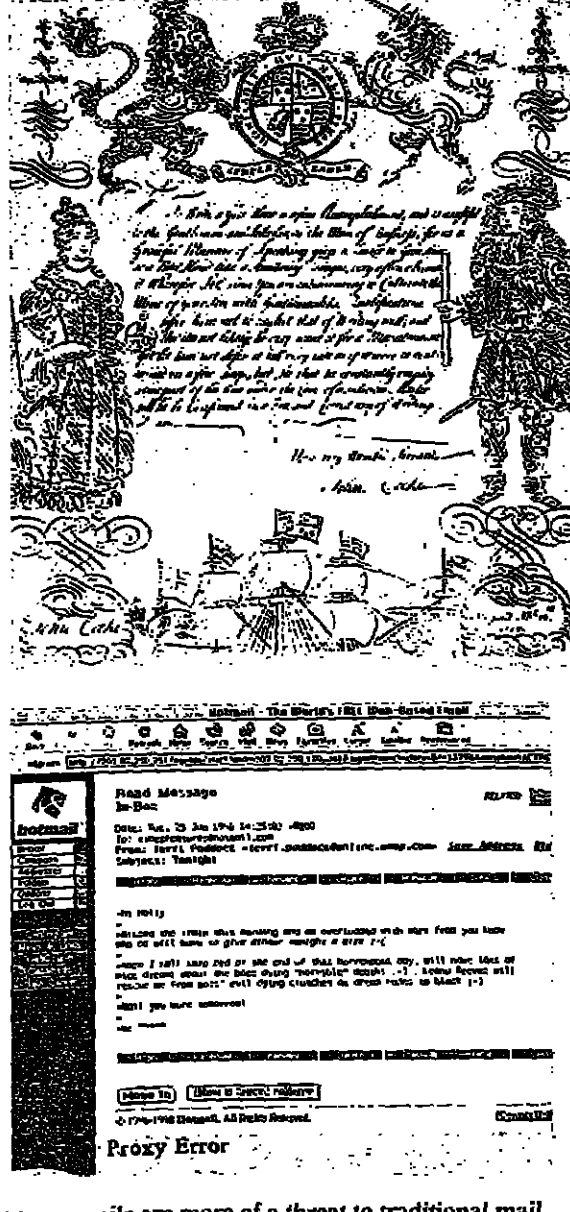
conference of the British Association of Cancer Research, of which he is president, they quickly ran out of beer. "We didn't think professors would drink very much," the organiser apologised. "We told her she had got it slightly wrong and she kindly went back to shore for more."

avoiding committees and giving too many lectures," he says. "I'm concentrating on the things that are important." His eldest daughter Frances asked him to her birthday party in Buckinghamshire last month. "She even arranged a driver so I could have a drink and enjoy myself," he says. "When I arrived there were 300 of my closest friends and colleagues, some from as far away as Australia. There were people I hadn't seen for years."

laboratory technician. In cancer research you often have to go into the lab on Sundays, but sometimes I couldn't because I had injured myself playing rugby or had a hang-over. Ken would always stand in for me. He was a very reliable technician, which was special because they don't pay lab techs any money."

most certainly get some quality years of life," he says. Finding a drug that acts on cancer cells while leaving healthy tissue unscathed is the Holy Grail of cancer research — and one that has driven Professor Connors since his 20s. "At present, one in four of us will die of cancer. If we could find a drug that would target cancer cells but not healthy cells we could save thousands upon thousands more lives every year," he says. "We can kill any cancer in the world, provided we can get enough anti-cancer agents to it, that remains the main problem."

honorary professor at the Department of Polymer Therapeutics at the School of Pharmacy at London University, believes he is fortunate to be working in a department which, even if the new platinum treatment fails, may hold the future key to his and many other forms of cancer. Whether or not he will ever be successfully treated with the culmination of his own life's work remains to be seen. He says: "It is possible that one day I might be treated with something I am helping to develop right now. I would enjoy the irony of that, if I live long enough."



The Queen Mother's letters were destroyed but e-mails are more of a threat to traditional mail

E-mail's red-letter day

The decline of old-fashioned post could affect history, says Terri Paddock

Historians were aghast this week to discover that Princess Margaret had destroyed hundreds of the Queen Mother's letters. Concern over the Queen Mother has counted many notable figures among her correspondents, and her writing has covered periods of great historical significance for the royal family and the country. The Queen Mother's archive aside, however, the threat posed to letter collections by publicity-shy daughters is minor compared with a much more modern menace — electronic mail.

The arrival of e-mail puts new pressures on letter writing, already under threat from the telephone and today's time-pressured life-style. On the one hand, e-mail has revitalised written communication by making it faster, cheaper and easier than ever. On the other hand, those who use e-mail are so won over that they are likely to never again want to bother with pen and paper, known as "snail mail".

A recent Which? Online survey of Internet users found that 9 per cent preferred e-mail to just 1 per cent who preferred the post as their favoured method of communication (after face-to-face talks and the telephone). In a tacit acknowledgment of the popularity of the new medium, the Royal Mail, in conjunction with Microsoft, recently introduced a service which turns customers' e-mails into real letters that are printed out and sent from the Royal Mail's Electronic Services Centre.

ing style required by e-mail could also unleash the inhibitions of many, capturing a more personal and accurate portrait for historians. As Ms Picardie's widower Matt Seaton explains in the book's foreword: "E-mail for Ruth represented a new and subtly different medium of communication. It was a way of expressing thoughts and feelings more spontaneously than in a letter, yet more reflectively than in a telephone conversation. It had a quality of being intimate and serious, and this meshed with something in her writer's psyche."

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The International Library of Poetry has just announced that it is sponsoring an International Amateur Poetry Competition in the United Kingdom and Ireland. There will be eight competitions this year open to all amateur poets. Entry to the competitions is free and there is no purchase requirement to win one of 70 prizes, including a £1,000.00 Grand Prize.

How to Enter Anyone may enter the competition simply by sending in only one original poem, any subject, any style, to: The International Library of Poetry, Dept. 9018 FREEPOST LON 2229 SITTINGBOURNE Kent ME10 3BR (No stamp required) (Please note this address is for poems only, all enquiries must be sent to the address below)

The poem should be no more than twenty lines, must be typed or neatly printed, and the poet's name and address must appear at the top of the page. Poems must be the original work of the submitting author and will not be returned. Closing date for applications is the last day of this month. Any entries received after this date will be submitted in the following competition. All poets who enter will receive an acknowledgement, along with complete competition rules, within nine weeks.

How to Win All the poems entered into the competition will be judged on originality, use of language, poetic style, creativity, and artistic expression. In addition to the £1,000.00 Grand Prize, ten Second Prizes of £50.00 each, and 59 Third Prize gifts of a £28.00 value will also be awarded. All 70 prize winners will be featured in a beautiful, hardbound anthology to be published at the conclusion of the competition. And what's more, non-winners may guarantee publication of their poem in this beautiful edition through their purchase of a copy (a pre-publication discount will be available). Every poem remains the exclusive property of its author. Anthologies published by the organization include: *A Lasting Calm, Awaken to a Dream, and Jewels of the Imagination*, among others.

World's Largest Poetry Organisation The International Library of Poetry, the international affiliate of The National Library of Poetry (founded in the United States in 1987) to promote the work and achievements of contemporary poets, publishes poetry and sponsors competitions around the world. In recent years they have awarded prize money to more than 5,000 poets in over 60 countries. In the next 12 months they will award £12,000.00 in cash prizes in the UK and Ireland competitions alone.

"It's always exciting to discover new talent," stated Howard Ely, Managing Editor of The International Library of Poetry. "We're especially interested in poems from new or unpublished poets. I urge everyone who is interested in poetry to enter this competition."

For further information and to receive a copy of the rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The International Library of Poetry, FAC: Competition Rules, 4 Crences Road, Dolphin Park, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HB

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David Bowker tries a week of living a pointless life, but finds purpose is a tough one to shake off

You just don't get it, do you?

I mentioned a few weeks ago that my Editor's girlfriend had started thinking up fresh challenges for me. Last Sunday, the man who cleans her windows phoned me at home to throw in a suggestion of his own. "How about missing the point for a week?" he enthused. "You see?" he crowed triumphantly. "You're doing it already."

Despite this annoyance, the next day I awoke feeling wonderful. After all, I have a beautiful family. The summer is here and our hearts are at peace under an English heaven. I decided to miss the point of this entirely by going to a therapist.

The therapist, Doug, was recommending to me by a writer who never stops moaning. Doug turned out to be a quiet, amiable chap. He began by asking me how I was feeling. I said: "Very well, thank you." He asked me why I'd come to him. I said I was extremely happy and wondered if this was normal. Doug merely nodded knowingly. "Really?" he probed. "Nothing depresses you?"

"Yes," I admitted. "Depressives get me down." I explained that I thought people

who felt depressed for no good reason should be taken out to face a firing squad. Then they'd really have something to be depressed about. Of course, I'd give them a last chance to mend their ways. I'm not a complete barbarian. I'd tell them a few jokes before I put the blindfold on. But if they didn't laugh, I'd have the blighters shot.

I was joking, of course. But Doug took me seriously, missing the point entirely. Which wasn't fair, really, because I was supposed to be missing the point.

On Tuesday, I missed the point of this column. Many of you will know exactly how I felt. I thought I'd been asked to stand in for Russell Grant. Which meant that I'd doubly missed the point, because lovely Russell doesn't write for *The Times*. However, here goes. "Capricorn: Mars is in cahoots with the Sun to make all you fluffy goats frolic in the sunshine.

This is no time to dither in the shade, so put on your best frocks and eat a box of chocolates, you impetuous wee things!"

On Wednesday, I missed the point of being alive and lay in bed all day with a sheet pulled over my face. The following afternoon, I went to visit a friend in hospital. Missing the point of hospital visits and friendship, I listened to music on my personal stereo and read a good book while he lay there sulking. After ten minutes, he complained that my visit was pointless. Rashly, I agreed, and then realised that I had seen his point when I ought to have missed it. So on Thursday,

SEVEN LONG DAYS



said: "You silly thing. Can't you make your mind up?"

"I've made my mind up," I said. "Well which is it? Muesli or bacon and eggs?" she laughed. "You can't have both."

Missing the point that she always missed the point, I said: "Look, I really

don't want both, but I do want all three." My aunt looked baffled. "What's the third?"

Breaking into a cold sweat, I said: "Look. One, muesli. Two, bacon. Three, eggs."

"You want three eggs?"

"No. One egg."

"But two rashers of bacon?"

"Oh, for God's sake!"

"So you want muesli, one egg and two rashers of bacon. All on the same plate?"

"No!" I took a deep breath. "I'll start with the muesli. In a dish. Followed by eggs and bacon. Please."

She served the muesli in a dish. Then returned a minute later with a sizzling pan. Before I could stop her, she tipped eggs and bacon on to my muesli. She'd missed the point, of course. But by this stage, I was so confused that I couldn't remember what the point was.



WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

JULY 3-5

Gliding weekends. From Charingworth Manor in the Cotswolds (01386 52355) in conjunction with the Bidford Gliding Club. Two nights, half board, with gliding instruction and two flights. £200.

Llama trekking on the coast of Yorkshire. From Wray Head Hotel, near Scarborough. Weekend rates from £148, half board, including llama trek (01723 37374).

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Cider with Rosie walking breaks in the Gloucester Cotswolds. Two nights from £130, with accommodation. Details from Compass Holidays of Cheltenham (01242 250642).

Folk dancing: Make a lined waistcoat. At Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancs (01772 784661). Price £100 residential, £75 non-residential.

Badgers: Identifying grasses in flower. Painting and drawing butterflies. At Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Surrey (01306 883849). Prices from £102 residential, £88 non-residential.

Orkney exploration: Italian. At Hill Residential Centre, Aberystwyth, South Wales (01495 333777). Prices £88 to £98.

Watercolours for beginners. At Hornsea College, Hornsea, East Yorkshire (01462 822449). Price per course £50.

Still-life painting - Matisse. At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 862904). Prices from £159 residential, £99 non-residential.

Jazz on a summer's weekend: Idle or idyll - rural life in art and literature in Victorian England. At Wedgewood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffs (01782 372105). Prices, all inclusive, £70.

JULY 10-12

Photography: Drawing for the terrified. Pottery: Multi-activity weekends in Snowdonia: Walking weekends. At various Welsh locations with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Prices £120 to £164, depending on activity, location and accommodation.

Grasses and flowering plants. At the University of Cambridge Board of Continuing Education (01954 210636). Price per course £120.

The shaping of modern Spain: East Midland bobbin laces. At Maryland College, Leighton Street, Woburn, Beds (01525 292901). Price per course £99 residential, £76 non-residential.

Conservation breaks. With the Brit-



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ish Trust for Conservation Volunteers of Wallingford, Oxon (01491 839706). More than 600 projects. Prices start at £15 depending on location and project.

Taste of gardening in Leicester. Bookings from Leicester Promotions (0116-254 7400). From £134, full board.

The plays of Anton Chekhov: Non-fiction writing. At Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester,

Northants (01933 312104). Prices from £92 residential.

A keep-fit weekend. At Burton Manor College, South Wirral, Cheshire (0151-336 5172). Price £98.

Rock climbing in the Lake District. From Field Studies Council, Castle Head, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria (015395 34300). Price £120 residential, £96 non-residential.

Be your own financial adviser: English folk heroes: Writing

comedy for television: Rag rugs. At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 862904). Price per course £159 residential, £69 non-residential.

Picasso: Walking the moorlands. At Wedgewood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price per course £70.

Walling in flint and stone: Calligraphy: Traditional upholstery: Cane and rush seating. At West Dean

College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 81301). Price per course, £150 residential.

The Pembrokeshire coast. From Dale Fort Field Studies Centre, Haverfordwest (01404 636205). Price £184 residential, £144 non-residential.

Introducing ants: Woodland butterflies of South-East England. Natural history courses at the Juniper Hall Field Studies Centre, Dorking, Surrey (01306 883849). Prices from £102 residential, £78 non-residential.

Close-up nature photography: Botanical illustration. At Loshill Hall Peak District National Park Centre, Castleton, Derbyshire (01433 620373). Price: from £125.

JULY 17-19

Crop circle celebration weekend. At Alton Barnes, Wiltshire. Experts, helicopter flights for aerial photography, workshops and a closing ceremony by a Native American chief. Two days £45. Accommodation (01672 513989) from £25 per night, B&B. Wiltshire Crop Circle Society Group (01380 860000).

Heretics and crusaders in the Languedoc. A history weekend at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price, all inclusive, £120.

Punting weekend on the River Cherwell from Studley Priory Hotel (01865 351613). Price, all inclusive, two nights £185.

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Silversmithing: Botanical illustration: Gardening - colour in the garden. At West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 81301). Price per course, including full board, £150.

The World Wide Web for business or pleasure: Golf for beginners. At the Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). Price for Web course £92, golf £122.

In search of the red kite: Water plants. At Field Studies Council Preston Montford Centre, Shrewsbury (01743 880380). Price £107 residential, £85 non-residential.

Ways with watercolours: Meditation. At Wedgewood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price per course £70.

Butterflies and moths: Daisies, dandelions and thistles. At Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Prices from £140 residential, £110 non-residential.

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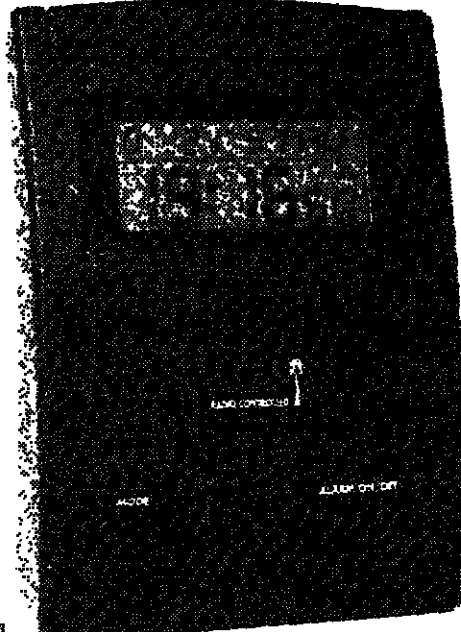
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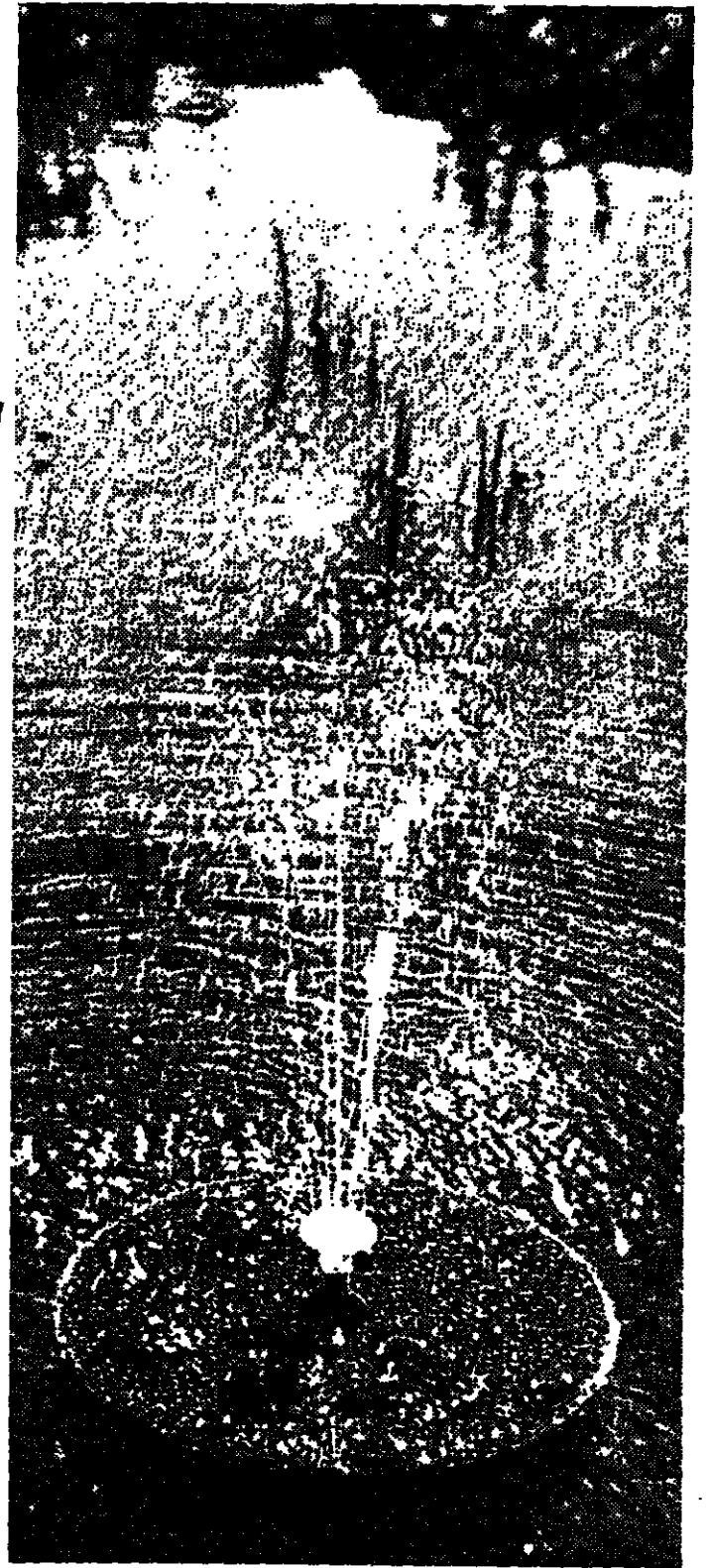
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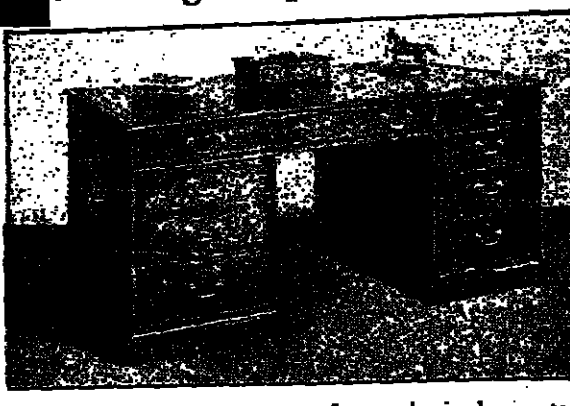
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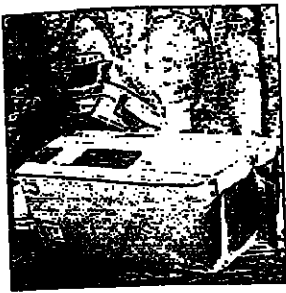
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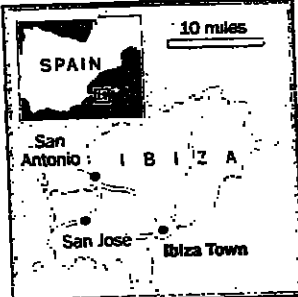
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THE TIMES TRAVEL

The island where sud's law rules

Tom Chesshyre gets down with Ibiza's party animals



It's 4am and Kaos nightclub in San Antonio — the busiest resort in Ibiza — is living up to its name. Some 400 scantily-dressed clubbers are pulsating to dance music as a stream of foam spurts across them from two raised chutes. Jumping on each others' shoulders and waving their arms in the air, they are covered in thick white suds, looking like a wild tribe of abominable snowmen.

The sunken dancefloor is rapidly filling to waist height with foam. As the level rises, the slipping and sloshing intensifies amidst shrieks of delight. "It's SO sexy!" screams an abominable snowwoman, flinging suds in our direction.

Ibiza — as I soon discovered on my foamy visit — deserves its reputation as the clubbing capital of the Mediterranean. Between May and September, more people come to party on this Balearic island than anywhere else in the Med, or for that matter, the rest of Europe.

Its extravagant nightclubs (the largest with capacities of up to 8,000) attract some of Europe's best DJs as well as an increasing number of British club promoters such as Carwash, Ministry of Sound, Miss Money Penny's and Renaissance. Last year, more than half a million Britons visited Ibiza, the majority coming for its nightlife.

This summer, even more visitors are expected with several tour operators offering cheap packages for clubbers. To get a feel for this year's scene, I and photographer Circe Hamilton joined a package tour in May, neither expecting nor getting much sleep.

"This is the best island to party and we will show you the best places with the best people," enthused our rep Gavin at the "ice-breaking" meeting on the first morning. A group of 40 had assembled at the Hotel PISCIS Park (rapidly renamed "Hotel Piss-up") in the centre of San Antonio. It was 11am and we were all bleary-eyed after arriving on a flight at 3.40am. Gavin handed out welcoming sangrias — a bit early in the morning, but what the hell, we were in Ibiza.

He then offered a few pointers on surviving our stay. "We don't want you to kill yourselves, so no balcony hopping." He looked sharply at a table of Liam Gallagher lookalikes getting through sangria at an alarming rate. "There's also a problem here with drugs, so use your common sense."

Next was a rundown of several party trips that were being organised: a "Funky Flares" Seventies night; a "Wet & Wicked" day trip including a visit to a water slides park followed by a water party at Es Paradis (one of the island's biggest clubs); and a "Party Cruise" with champagne and a barbecue. We put our names down for "Wet & Wicked" (£20) and, like most of the others, decided to follow our noses to find the best clubs for the rest of the holiday.

There is a finite pattern to clubbing life on Ibiza. Most people wake up around midday, go back to the beach to let the sun soak up their hangovers, go back to their hotels for food and a siesta around 7pm and then hit the bars at 10pm before going clubbing at 1am (returning between 4am and 7am). Partying, it seems, takes military planning.

San Antonio beach — which overlooks a bay surrounded by dozens of concrete hotels — was buzzing with beautiful (and not so beautiful) brown-ing (and reddening) bodies. A shifty-looking Spaniard tried to sell us a necklace.



Revellers wallow in foam on the sunken dance floor of a nightclub on Ibiza. Last year half a million Britons visited the island, which deserves its reputation as the clubbing capital of the Mediterranean

Then another, with matted hair, a stained T-shirt and needlemarks in his arms came up: "Hash. You want hash? No? OK." And off he scuttled.

The beachgoers next to us — a friendly group of teenagers on a package tour from Fareham in Hampshire — watched with amusement. "We had all that yesterday," said Amy Clifford, 17. "One guy offered us a cup of dodgy-looking orange juice. No way were we going to try that — it could have had anything in it."

Retreating to Bar M for a drink, we bumped into Andy McKay, who runs Manumission — Ibiza's biggest, most successful and raunchiest club — with his brother, Mike (who is in charge of the steamy

stage acts). Five years ago, they were working at a club in Manchester, but it was petrol-bombed by rivals and they decided to move to Ibiza. In between mobile telephone calls, he explained the appeal of the island's clubs.

There's something magical about Ibiza which makes people relax and enjoy themselves," he said, ruffling his bleached blond hair. "It's not all about drugs, although a lot of people take them. We don't promote drugs — you can party and have a good time without them."

We quickly discovered there are three sets of people who go clubbing in Ibiza. The first

(and most obnoxious) is the Beer Boyz, who wear football shirts and Nike trainers, chant football songs and try to "pull birds". The second is the Up For It Girlz, who wear miniskirts and see-through tops and usually pair off with the Beer Boyz. The third set is the Serious Clubbers: male or female, straight or gay, but united in trendiness.

Beer Boyz and Up For It Girlz make do with the clubs in San Antonio's West End, which play songs by Abba, the Bee Gees and Spice Girls. Sgt Pepper's, Gorm's Garage and Play It are favourite hangouts. One night at Play II, we met three Beer Boyz from Cardiff who claimed to have "pulled" 14 Up For It Girlz between them in six days. "It's just so easy," boasted David, 20.

Claire and Janine from Swansea, UFIC's of the first order who we met on the "Wet & Wicked" trip, claimed a similar romantic success rate. "I'm after him tonight," said Janine, pointing at a holiday rep (reps are considered something of a scalp) as the water came cascading down from sprinklers in Es Paradis.

Serious Clubbers hang out at a series of bars, including Savannah, Café del Mar and Café Mambo, on the north-west side of San Antonio. From here, most go on to one of the big clubs in San Antonio or Ibiza Town. We bumped into the promoters of Carwash (Arlette, Claudine, Poppy and Nigel) at Café Mambo, the hippest of all the bars. To a background of "ambient" dance music, Nigel said: "We have a strict admissions policy — groovy, funky, furry, sexy, shiny. We don't want people in football shirts. Why don't you come along?" I pondered — was my wardrobe sufficiently funky, furry and shiny?

On our final night, we took up Nigel's invitation. Carwash is held at Es Paradis and Arlette (green rubber two-piece) was at the door. In jeans and my brightest shirt, I felt underdressed — but was allowed in.

Arlette then appeared on a raised platform and launched into a frantic, gymnastic dance routine. "Hey, put your notebook away," said the Disco Kid, one of the DJs. "Come on, this is Ibiza, have a drink. It's time you partied." I did, and have no idea what time I returned to the hotel — but judging from my hangover on the beach the next day, it must have been fun.



Poppy, Claudine and Arlette in raunchy Ibiza clubwear

IBIZA CLUB FILE

- Tom Chesshyre travelled with Club Freestyle and Hertz.
- Getting there: Club Freestyle holidays can be booked through Thomson Direct (0990 502555). A week's B&B in July at a one-star hotel in San Antonio costs from £259. A week's B&B in September at Hotel PISCIS Park costs from £199. Flights from Gatwick.
- Getting about: Car rental: A week's all-inclusive, Group A car rental with Hertz (0990 996699) is £119. It's worth hiring a car to look around some of the more remote parts of the island. Discobus Ibiza (00 349 7119 2456) stops at all the major clubs, leaving central San Antonio on the hour every hour and Ibiza Town every 30 minutes between midnight and 6am.
- UK club contact numbers: Carwash (0181-330 7209) at Es Paradis in San Antonio (entrance E15). Seventies funky-disco. Every Saturday until September 12.
- Clockwork Orange (01708 345535) at Es Paradis (entrance E15). Dance music. Every Wednesday until September 23.
- Cream (0151-709 1693) at Amnesia on San Antonio Road (entrance E20-E25). House music from Liverpool's best known club promoters. Every Thursday until September 10 (and all Saturdays in August). Manumission (07000 462686) at Privilege on San Antonio Road (entrance E27).
- Steamy dance and funk. Every Monday until September 21. Ministry of Sound (0171-378 6528) at Pacha, Avenue Ocho de Agosto in Ibiza Town (entrance E15-E18). UK/US garage music. Every Friday until September 4. Miss Money Penny's (0121-693 6960) at El Divino (entrance E20). The island's most exclusive venue so dress smartly. Every Tuesday until September 15.
- Spanish Tourist Office (0171-486 8077).

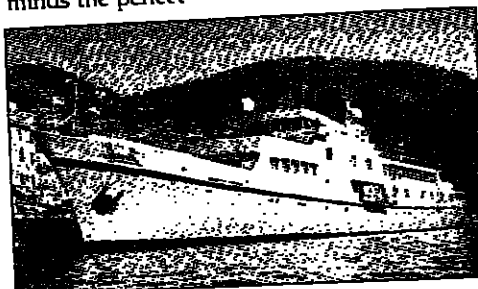


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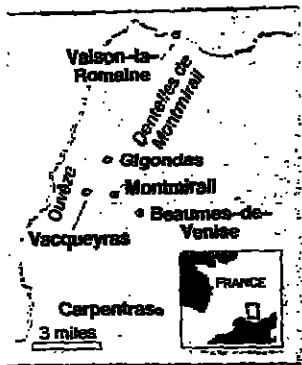


The violent flash floods in Vaison-la-Romaine, southeastern France, in September 1992 left dozens dead and devastated towns and campsites

Fear of floods revisited

Andrew Sanger nearly died in a flash flood in Provence. Six years later he returns to confront his fears

When the jagged outline of the Dentelles de Montmirail comes into view, my heart misses a beat and I feel fear. I follow the country lane which loops around the foot of the Dentelles and links these pretty, sunlit Provençal villages, continuing to the attractive market town of Vaison-la-Romaine. Six years ago, this area was hit by floods in which at least 43 people died. I was there when disaster struck.



ber 22, 1992, I drove north from Carpentras to Montmirail. A bad storm had blown up the previous evening and the police at a road-closed barrier in Carpentras probably should not have let me pass, but my wife and two-year-old son were waiting and I insisted. As I drove, the storm shifted into a higher gear. Between Beaumes-de-Venise and Vaison-la-Romaine, incredible quantities of rain — 64 gallons per square yard — fell in three hours; the normally trickling River Ouvèze rose 60 feet in an hour and hosed away the Moulin du César riverbank campsite and wrecked 104 houses on a new estate.

Caravans and cars, several with people inside, were tossed like bits of polystyrene. Some were smashed to pieces against the Roman bridge which crosses the Ouvèze at Vaison, others were found miles downstream near Avignon. At its height, the Ouvèze was flowing over the top of the bridge, sweeping away its solid stone 17th-century parapet. As well as those who died here, others were washed away at Vacqueyras, Gigondas and Beaumes. Some were never found, while unofficial campers or tourists may not have been counted.

Rain came down as I had never seen. Thunder rolled and banged. The sky flickered like a neon light. The water swirled deeper, muddier and faster, pushing the car, yet somehow I kept going in low gear. I turned into a road which was now a torrent. This had been the D233.

The worst was still to come. Round a corner the road climbed, dipped then vanished beneath an expanse of brown water racing across the fields. With heart in mouth I clung to the steering wheel and aimed for the far side. In mid-stream, the car was lifted by the water, seemingly to be borne away.

For an instant I understood water in its primal form, as one of the four elements, a limitless power. A horrible sense of futility and vulnerability was destined to be my final thought. Yet miraculously, instead of floating away, the car was dashed against an obstacle beneath the surface, the wheels gripped and went forward, regaining the road and climbing out of the stream.

Eventually, I was relieved to meet up with my family and make it back to the hotel where, eerily, everything seemed almost normal. In the bar, drinkers joked nervously as thunder cracked — until suddenly, four feet of sludge lurched through the door and swirled around.

Outside, the water dragged tables and chairs and flower tubs, even concrete and brickwork, over the terrace. The electricity and phones were already out. The only light was from the emergency exit signs in the corridors so this is where we sat until they went out and we were forced into the bedrooms.

In the morning nearly all the water had gone, reduced to mud and puddles. Taking any roads passable, we found a way out.

Six years later, on the Hotel Montmirail's immaculate

postside terrace, under the big plane tree, the tables are smartly laid and waiters serve convivial diners. Yet it must be a mirage, an impossible vision. Wasn't all this washed away?

Surrounded by greenery and vines, the Montmirail is small, traditional, family-owned and has a reputation for fine cooking. Marc Nicolet, 39, took over the business two days after the flood and has vivid memories of the damage. "September 22 was a disaster for me and the family. The hotel belonged to my father, but two days after the flood he had a stroke. We opened again the next year, but for four years more I had terrible problems. Repairs and making good cost £150,000, but the insurance paid only half."

As well as restoring the hotel and grounds, Mr Nicolet spent £25,000 on protecting the property against future storms. He put up gutters on the hotel roof — unusual in Provence — because, he says, he can't stand the sound of water falling any more.

"When there is a storm I am like a cat. But I believe now that every person has inner resources. I acquired a strength I didn't know about. Every evening during those years, when I kissed my two sons goodnight I said to myself, 'Allez! You must overcome all this! And I have. It's just this year that I really started to feel that everything is okay again.'"

To the north, in Vaison, I asked Michel Talbot, head of tourism at the *mairie* (town hall), if the floods had been forgotten and the damage put right. "Except in people's minds," he said. "In all, the storm caused about £44 million of damage. By now almost everything has been put right, but the past is still there. It's not something one could imagine or forget."

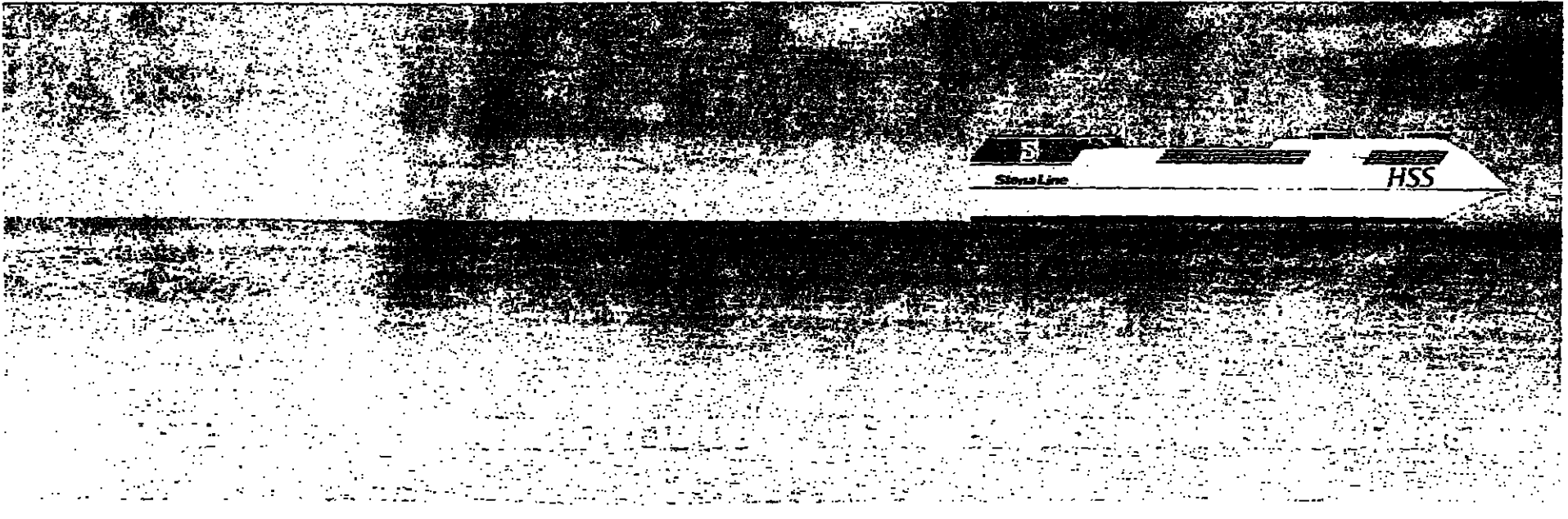
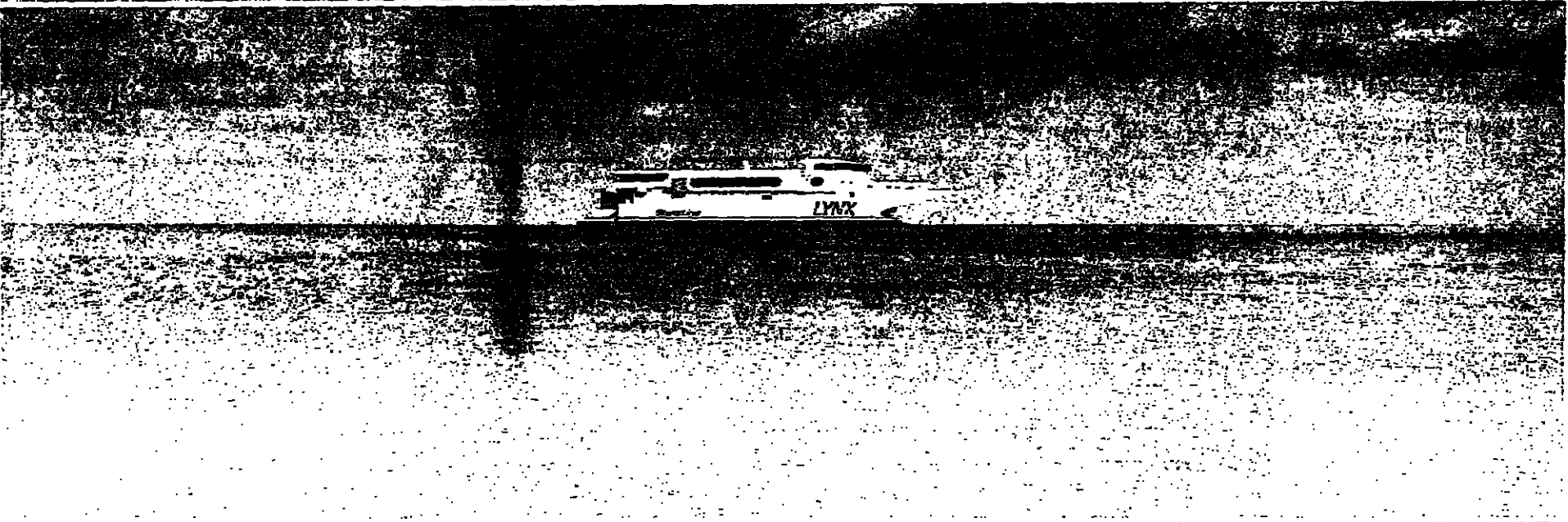
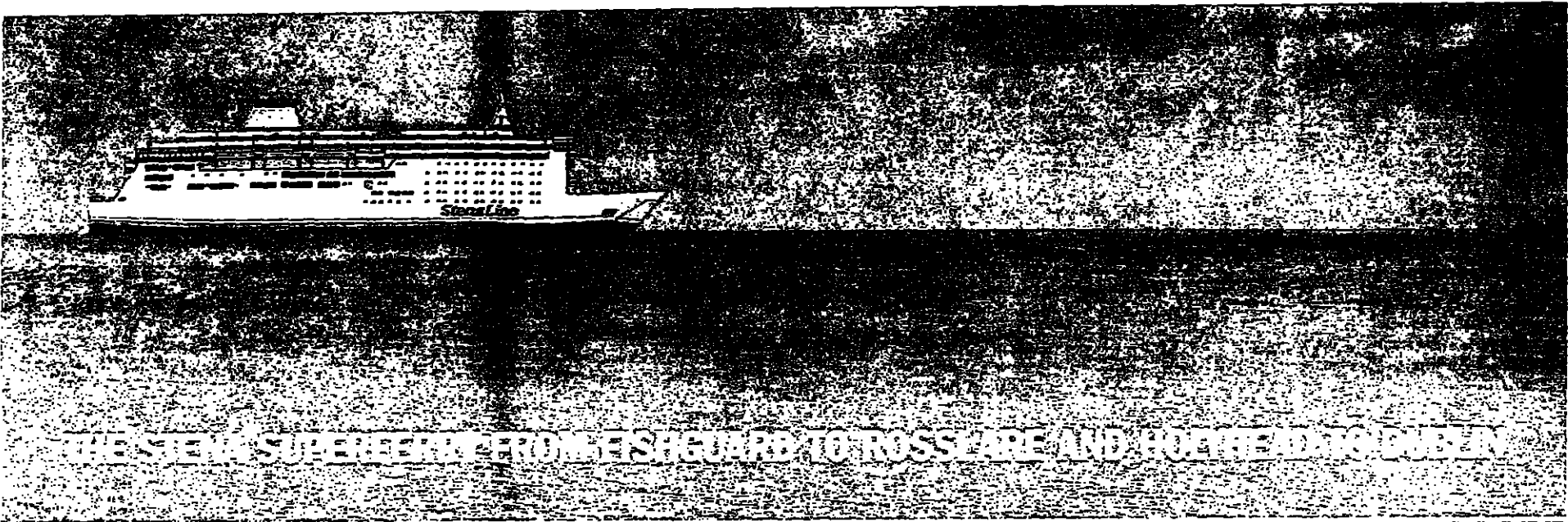
He walked me around the impressive Roman sites, currently attracting about 80,000 visitors a year. Apart from some pieces of mosaic washed away, the carefully sited quarters, like the hilltop medieval district south of the river, escaped more or less unscathed. Only the modern part of town was submerged.

Perhaps the storm's most enduring legacy is the legislation brought in afterwards, prohibiting accommodation in flood-prone areas. This applies throughout France, to campsites and houses, and removes the onus from local authorities. A memorial to victims of the flood has been erected at a new recreation area on the site of the devastated housing estate at Les Erminées, west of the town centre. There are no signs and M Talbot agrees most visitors won't find it. Like M Nicolet at Montmirail, he senses the time has come to leave the experience behind.

From a high ridge near Hotel Montmirail I looked across a glorious landscape, almost luminous in the pearly sunshine, of rolling vineyards and the hazy Cévennes hills beyond the Rhône. And suddenly realised there was no fear; instead, a sort of joy. Storms happen.

Just one more thing to do. I walked up the little Montmirail road, eager to find the obstacle that had prevented the car being washed away. It was a small wall over a culvert and a bank of earth running by the road. Wild flowers grow on the bank, and there's not even a trickle in the culvert.

Andrew Sanger returned to the Hotel Montmirail with WFF Holidays (01242 240330). Three nights' half-board costs from £238 in July and August, including cross-Channel travel. Three nights' half-board with a return journey on the Calais-Avignon Motorail costs from £485 in July and August. Prices based on two sharing with insurance included.



Decisions, decisions.

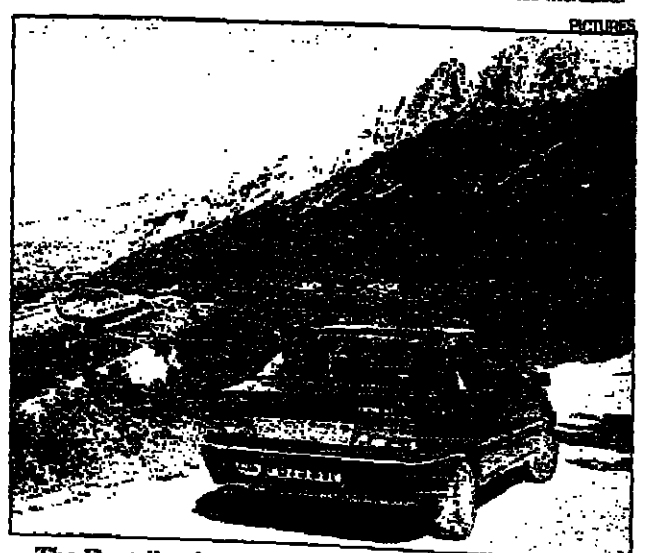
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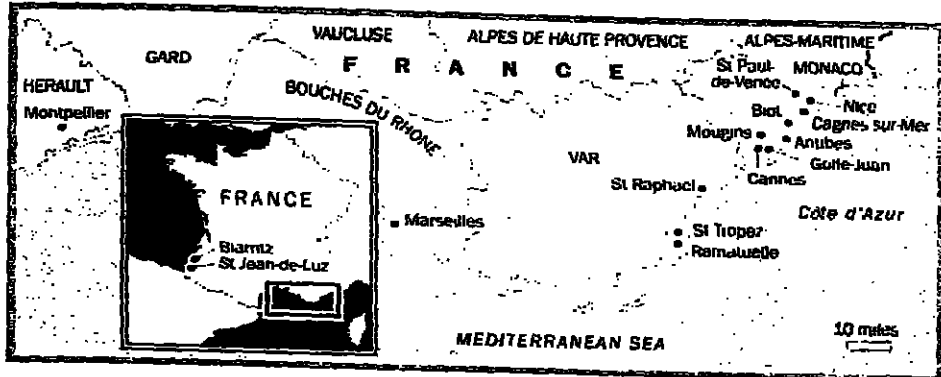
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The Dentelles de Montmirail, high above the disaster

FRANCE: THE BEST RESTAURANTS



Eat your heart out, Normandy

Robin Young gets a taste for the affordable cuisine of southern France

Loyal for years to Normandy and the north, I judged myself far wiser than the hordes who joined the rush south to the Mediterranean...

Now I too have succumbed to the lure of the sunny south. The supposed horrors of overcrowded camp sites, chock-a-block roads and beaches buried under an avalanche of sun-worshipping bodies...

It does not have to be expensive. My own experience is that restaurant and hotel bills tend to be a little lighter in Provence than in Normandy...

A little knowledge of the relative merits of the local wines of Provence, Languedoc-Roussillon and the French south-west can also play an important part in keeping the spending within bounds...

Our favourite place for the past few years has been La Belle Otero, atop the Carlton in Cannes. That may sound appallingly pretentious, but the truth is that at Fr290 including everything (complimentary tibits, wine, coffee and service) the British-owned restaurant offers (though, sadly, not in July or August) lunchtime value for money that is simply not to be found anywhere in London.

Whenever possible we eat on the terrace, actually so narrow that it is more a grandiose gutter inside the hotel facade's parapets. Often the mistral or another of the Riviera's numerous gusty winds forces us to finish our meal one-handed, while arm-wrestling to keep the giant parasol in place...

Promotional lunches are also being presented at the neighbouring Royal Gray in the Hotel Gray d'Albion, by a new chef, at Fr205 for three courses. The terrace is more spacious, but has no sea view, and the cooking, while good, does not yet have quite the Otero's flair and originality.

In Nice we are fairly regular customers for simple seafood at the Grand Café Turin (also known as Chez Jo L'Écailler), not that that ingratiates us to the hurried and frequently brusque staff. But the bustling establishment is handily placed between the old town and the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, affording views of the swiftness twirling around the city square.

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Pretty St-Paul-de-Vence, home to La Colombe d'Or

find lunch for as little as Fr58 (try Le Safranier or Le Brûlot for maximum economy). But the most evocative place to lunch or dine (the menu with a choice of six starters, main course and dessert is Fr200) is Les Vieux Murs, a stone-throw from the Picasso Museum and cathedral...

A favourite at Biot, home of the Fernand Léger Museum, is Les Terrailleurs, in an immaculately converted 16th-century pottery (the oven has become a private dining room). Again, despite proximity to the road, there is a shaded outdoor terrace and Claude Jacque's crisp vegetable tarts, roast John Dory with the local speciality of a chick pea gateau and saffron sauce...

Mougins, where Picasso lived for years at Notre-Dame-de-Vie, is the best served of all the Riviera villages for restaurants. Roger Vergé is still the market leader at Le Moulin de Mougins and his simple terraced bistro, L'Ammandiers, but we have also eaten well at no fewer than five of the many restaurants in the village centre. A

keen community council ensures that Mougins is free of both tourist clutter and traps.

At St-Paul-de-Vence the administration is more liberal, but standards are still high. It is worth paying one rather elevated bill at La Colombe d'Or for the chance to view one of the most exceptional private art collections on the inn's walls...

In the narrow streets of Haut-de-Cagnes, we were particularly delighted by the charm of the dining room with an opening roof at Le Cagnard. On fine nights, diners eat beneath the stars, but on our last visit there were cheers when torrential rain gave way to sun just long enough for the sliding panels to be opened for a couple of minutes.

Astonishingly in this impractical beauty spot, there are at least another four restaurants (des Peintres, Josy Jo, Entre Cour et Jardin and Table d'Yves) worth investigating.

The best bouillabaisse of the coast, experts advise, comes from Tétou, beside the beach at Golfe-Juan where Napoleon landed on his return from Elba. It is powerfully rich and consumed by both locals and visitors with relish.

In St Raphaël try Le Jardin de Sébastien for generous and



Twins Jacques and Laurent Pourcel have won three Michelin stars for the food at their restaurant, Le Jardin des Sens, in Montpellier

inventive cooking, tasty risottos and perfectionists' dishes of young rabbit or lobster. The Fr150 weekday lunch, including local wine, is a snip.

In St Tropez the leading chef is Laurent Turricat, whose restaurant, the Bistrot des Licées, dominates the famous square of that name.

I was once treated, courtesy of the French Government Tourist Office, to a demonstration of the preparation of Provencal specialities by M Tarridec, which was quite ironic because he is in fact a Breton, and as a chef has a creative flair and ambition which extends far beyond the reproduction of regional specialities.

At Ramatuelle I harbour fond memories of the Auberge de l'Oumède, off the beach road, a real country inn serv-

ing rustic delights such as tartlets of sardines and tomatoes, grilled steaks and roast bread.

On the same visit I stayed at the Hostellerie Bérard in Cadière d'Azur, perched above the streaming traffic on the ASD. René Bérard specialises in delicious vegetables, but there are also superb pasta dishes and spit roasts, and although everything does not always run absolutely smoothly, the menus, from Fr160, are modestly priced.

Montpellier must have a mention because of the well-deserved success of the dedicated twin brothers, Laurent and Jacques Pourcel, in becoming both the latest Michelin three-star chefs and Gault Millau's chefs of the area. Despite being garlanded with such lau-

rels, the twins have not rushed to put the prices at their restaurant, Le Jardin des Sens, into the stratosphere. Their menus, which I believe are still the cheapest available in a three-star restaurant in France, are full of painstakingly researched and magnificently detailed creations.

This was the first place I ever heard of toasting rape-seed so they could make a rape-seed oil dressing that tasted of something!

There are plenty of good and inexpensive restaurants around the Golfe du Lion, but few outstanding ones. After Agde and Sète, especially, the Languedoc coast is the sort of area where I like to call in the aid of the Guide Routard,

specialist in locating honourable cooking at modest prices, as a supplement to the more gastronomically inclined books. I have found the Routard series an invaluable, and thus far wholly dependable, guide to cheap, good places all over France.

There is one last gastronomic destination before the Spanish border: L'Almandin at St Cyprien, 20 kilometres short of Perpignan. The chef, Jean-Paul Hartmann, comes from Alsace but he has adapted very skilfully to Mediterranean cooking and works wonders with the local langoustines and artichokes.

Across on the Atlantic coast, my wife and I virtually discovered Le Table des Frères Ibarboure at Bidart. At the very least we were among the first

customers at their ornate pavilion. We have been back twice and prices are still moderate for such high-class cooking.

My happiest memories of Biarritz are of the Bistrot Bellevue, the bistro of the much grander and more expensive Café de Paris. I had a delicious sardine and tomato tart which I still remember with relish three years after the event.

In Saint Jean-de-Luz I was delighted recently to rediscover the modest Vieille Auberge, little changed since the owners' family took it over when I first knew it in the 1950s. They still specialise in fish soup, paella and grills, and the dishes are all under Fr100. I will not bother you with how little we used to pay in the Fifties, because that isn't really relevant, is it?

FACT FILE... Information and reservations... One of the best: L'Ammandiers de Mougins... Auberger de l'Oumède, Ramatuelle... Les Frères Ibarboure, Bidart 5 59 54 81 64

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Forget tea, I'll have a 'bahr'

Bahr, here... bahr, here... get ya bahr, here." The voice was booming and adrenergic, a cigar-and-whisky-cured baritone, redolent of late nights and general bad living. I looked up from my seat at an ice-hockey dust-up between Boston Bruins and a visiting redneck team from Dallas, and found myself staring at a haunted wreck of a man, deep into middle age, wearing a tattered baseball cap, Coke-bottle-thick spectacles, his mouth a jumble of decrepit dental work. He was the ice-hockey equivalent of a cigarette girl at an old cinema: suspended from his neck was a tray on which balanced a dozen cans of a liquid substance generally called lager, but which, in the vowel-heavy inflection so common throughout coastal Massachusetts, is known as "bahr".

"Gimme a couple a bahrs here," shouted Joe, a guy on my right in his early fifties, with hangdog eyes and a pronounced Adam's apple. He passed one on to me. "Here ya go, Doug," he said. "Hockey ain't hockey without a bahr." I was a little stunned by this act of spontaneous generosity. After all, I had just met Joe five minutes earlier. "You go to many Bruins games?" I asked him.

"Used to, when they played at the Garden," he said, referring to the now-defunct (and much lamented) Boston Garden, a splendidly dingy barn of an athletic arena: the sort of dump that looked like a smoke-laden, monochromatic set for a Warner Bros boxing film of the 1930s. But when Boston's shiny indoor sports stadium, the Fleet Center, opened a couple of years ago, the authorities closed it down. "Ever since they stashed playing hockey in the Fleet I ain't been coming no more." Joe said.

"I'm just a fireman and there's no way I can afford \$65 for a Bruins ticket. The only reason I'm here tonight is because I won a ticket in a lottery. Hockey in Boston just ain't

As the yuppies take over central Boston, Douglas Kennedy longs for the good old days of ten-cent cigars

the game of the working man no more." Instead, the game now belonged to the three guys on my left, a trio of "suits" in their early thirties, pin-striped in Brooks Brothers navy flannel, their wrists adorned with expensive Swiss timepieces. One of them introduced himself. "Name's Brad Bingley," he said, his voice a prep-school honk. He was a "mutual fund guy".

I asked Brad if it was difficult getting tickets for the Bruins. "Not in our company," he said. "I get my secretary to call a broker. He gets as many as I need. We have to pay over the odds, but hey, it's the client who ultimately gets stuck with the bill, so who cares?" he chortled. He had paid \$137 each for his tickets. "That seems like an obscene amount to shell out for a mere hockey game," I gasped.

He rolled his eyes. "You're out of touch with Boston," he drawled. "This town is now the mutual fund capital of the world. A major corporate HQ — and booming. Apartment rents are sky-rocketing and there's a shortage of office space. Which means there's plenty of money around town up for grabs." Though Brad was, without question, a premier cru example of Yuppie Scum, he was right about one thing: Boston, which celebrates its tea-party role in the American Revolution during Harborfest this week, has become a city of suits.

Loiter within its perimeters and you will discover a new breed of corporate émigrés, refugees from New York and Los Angeles who've fled the nerve-jangling tensions of major metropolitan life for the gracious pleasures of Boston. And there is no doubt that, of all so-called historic American cities (places like San Francisco and New Orleans, which have managed to resist hyper-development and maintain some semblance of architectural integrity), Boston remains the most visually refined.

At dusk on a winter's night, under the mall-whisky glow of lamplight, the spindly red-brick splendour of Beacon Hill (Boston's Belgravia, a perfectly intact quarter of 19th-century town houses) looks like the stage set for one of Henry James's tales of life among the New England squirearchy.

The elegant residential avenues of Back Bay combine with the colonial dignity of Harvard Yard (at the heart of the university across the river in Cambridge) to give Boston a sense of venerable solidity, a city of weight and gravitas. With its great centres of learning (Harvard, MIT, Boston University et al), its adoration of *hook Kultur* (the Boston Symphony Orchestra is one of the world's finest), and its proudly austere Puritan heritage, it has always presented a bookish, high-minded face to the world. Which other city has sparked a revolution over tea? Dig below this genteel veneer, however, and you'll discover an intriguing ethnic stew of Irish, Italian and African-American neighbourhoods, areas like "Southie" and Roxbury, where the patois is punchy and life is anything but genteel. More tellingly, it remains a great student town, which means it is a hive of serious book shops, endless coffee bars and the usual bevy of counter-culture restaurants serving up macro-neurotic cuisine. But, whereas the city was once an

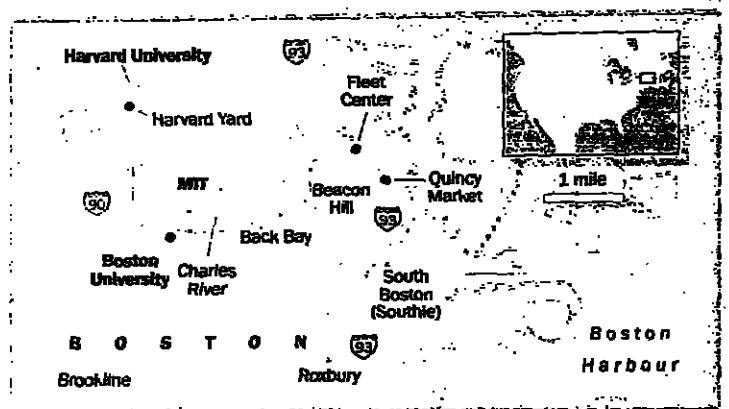


The stylish redevelopment of Quincy Market, which attracts crowds of well-heeled shoppers, reflects Boston's move upmarket

affordable alternative to Manhattan's high-priced arrogance, Boston is becoming another example of urban stratification. The inner city is an array of designer shops, with visitors and residents alike making a beeline for that blueprint for successful town centre renewal, Quincy Market, transformed by the architect who then started up Covent Garden.

With £1,225 a month being a typical rent for a Back Bay apartment, those with six-figure incomes are increasingly dictating the tone of the city. Sitting in the antiseptic Fleet

stadium, sandwiched between Joe-the-Fireman and Brad-the-Mutual-Fund-Dirtbag, I couldn't help but feel that I was a buffer between two disparate Bostons: the rough-and-tumble old Boston of ward politics and ten-cent cigars, versus the brave, new, upwardly mobile world of young urban professionals. And it wasn't a struggle to place my allegiance with the ten-cent brigade: for though Boston's new-fangled Yuppie Scum might brag about dropping \$137 on a hockey ticket, they'd never buy a stranger a beer — or I should say, a bahr.



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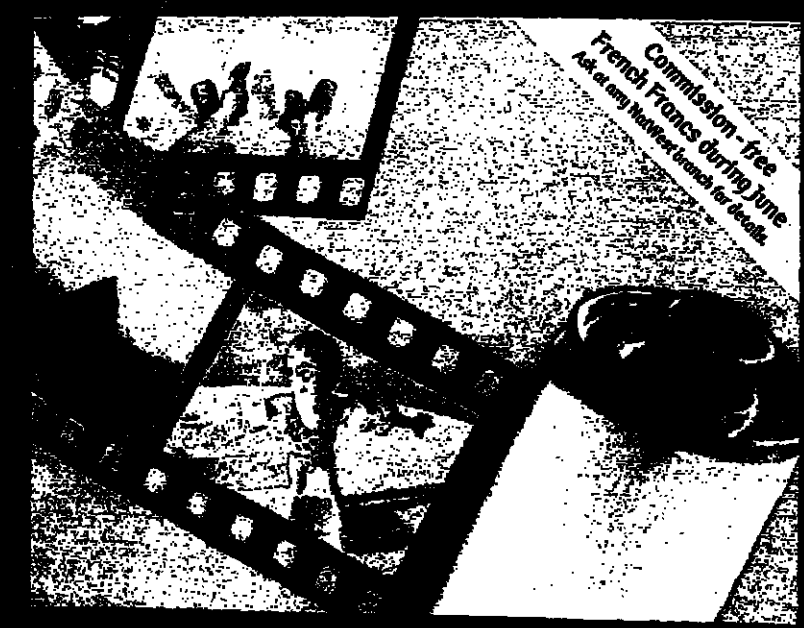
BOSTON FACT BOX

■ Douglas Kennedy travelled with Virgin Atlantic (01293 747747), which flies once daily to Boston from Gatwick Airport. Megastar tickets, on sale until July 9 for travel in July, are £470 including tax. ■ Getting there: Trailfinders (0171-937 5400) offers tailored holidays to Boston: direct flights from £225, hotel accommodation from £51 per day for a double room, and car hire for £148 a week. City break operators include Virgin Holidays (01293 617181), which offers return flights from Gatwick and three nights' room-only accommodation for £578 between July 1 and August 31; Kirker Holidays (0171-231 3333) and Thomson City Breaks (0181-210 4500). ■ Accommodation: The Charles Hotel in Cambridge is perfectly situated for Harvard Square and its restaurants, cinemas, bookshops and shopping. Rooms from £210. Another leading Boston hotel is the Boston Harbour, which currently has rooms from £260. For reservations call 0800 893391. ■ Upcoming events: The 17th Boston Harborfest (June 30 to July 5) celebrates Boston's role in the American Revolution, including the famous Tea Party. ■ Further information: Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (0171-978 5233), Stateside, call the Boston Visitor Center (01 617 536 4100). Under the US Visa Waiver Scheme, UK passport holders do not need a visa if staying for less than 90 days. Guide book: New England (Lonely Planet, £12.99).



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No Fat Boys or Lion-faced Ladies



Candyfloss spinning, one of the great attractions of fairs

The freak shows are long gone, but Britain's fairs are still buzzing with colourful characters and rides, finds Stephen McClarence

They still talk about Alf Myers, the Armless Wall of Death Rider, who could strip down a motorbike engine with his feet. He is not to be confused with Tommy "Toes" Jacobsen, the Armless Pianist.

Or with Tornado Smith, the Wall of Death rider who put a coffin in his sidecar and sat a skeleton in it. As his bike hurtled round in ever-faster circles, there was no disputing his slogan: "Tornado Smith rides with Death".

Fairgrounds have never been places for the squeamish. Until 30 or 40 years ago they generally included freak shows, with Rona the Rat Girl competing with the Giraffe-necked Girl from Burma. Physical deformity was a money-spinner.

Not today. The 250 fairs travelling round Britain between spring and autumn have no place for Living Skeletons or Fire-eating Negroes dancing on broken glass. Political correctness and human compassion put paid to 27in dwarfs and 7ft 4in giants.

So there is no Fat Lil, no



There are 250 fairs touring Britain, most offering traditional carousel rides which still attract the crowds, even if today's youngsters want more high-tech thrills

lars carved like giant thigh bones. Hook-a-duck or Pick-up-a-penguin to win a Teletubby, "Waltz Around at the Speed of Sound", churn yourself up (and possibly relive your lunch) on The Cyclone ride. Join the synchronised screaming or feed coins into Davey Briggs' Coronation Street fruit machine.

"It's going out now, this Coronation Street, a bit old-fashioned," he says. "EastEnders games are taking over. Mind you, my family goes right back to steam swings and Penny-a-ride in the early 1800s. I'm a Briggs now, but my mum was an Amis. You know the Amises? You know Renee Marshall? Her husband had a circus and my father did the ride-horses with him."

Renee Marshall used to be a daring young girl on the flying trapeze. Now retired, she greets me in the front room of her chalet-caravan on a showground site at Brighouse, West Yorkshire. Her daughter, Sandra Wright, is stirring the tea.

"Aunt Violet had snakes," says Sandra, very casually. "You'd go in her caravan and there was this big box in the bedroom. Two pythons wrapped in blankets, fed with live rabbits. And there was another woman, Madame something, I can't remember. She did a snake act."

Renee looks up from the sofa. "I know who you mean," she says. "But it wasn't snakes. Sandra, it was crocodiles. A lovely act and such a beautiful girl. She was the talk of London. And do you remember Oscar the baboon? And the night Auntie Liz's monkey got out?"

Sandra pours the tea. She is the fifth generation to work in

fairs and the highest-ranking woman in the Showmen's Guild, the trade association whose members run 95 per cent of Britain's funfairs.

"You've got a lot of water games now," she says. "Hook-a-duck and floating penguins. But there aren't so many slot machines and Space Invaders. Most children have their own computers and video games."

At the height of the summer season, 600 fairs are running in Britain every week. In the winter off-season — traditionally from Bonfire Night to Valentine's Day — many showpeople take their fairs abroad.

"There was someone in Lancashire who went to Mozambique," says Renee, who made her circus debut at six. "And there's been a spate of them going to Singapore and Thailand. I think people still go to Iceland and the Isle of Man."

She heaves a box from the bedroom filled with hundreds of old photos: Renee as an Indian squaw; a cousin's big-top wedding with a tiger next to the bride; her father's Cinema Show at Hull in 1911.

There are 32,000 photos like these in the National Fairground Archive, an ever-expanding collection of books, films, videos, manuscripts and souvenirs of Bisepio the Strong Man, Enoch Farrar's Scenic Whales and Shufflebottom's Wild West Shows (two of the Shufflebottoms married on a circus elephant).

The archive was set up at the University of Sheffield four years ago by Dr Vanessa Toulmin, a businesslike woman who calls herself "the most over-qualified candyfloss-spinner in the country". She combines academic clout (her PhD, titled Fun Without Vulgarity, was a history of



The Green family enjoys the dogdgers at Blackburn fairground in the 1950s

showpeople) with practical experience — spinning candyfloss, running children's rides and generally "ducking and diving" at weekend fairs.

Her family has a 100-year history in the business. She was born at Winter Gardens Fair in Morcambe, Lancashire. Her grandfather ran one of the first "house-houses" (bingo) stalls and she boasts: "One of my aunts can jump on a galloper — that's a roundabout — with two cups of tea and not spill a drop."

Fairs have a rich social history dating back to the 13th century. "Mop" fairs, where servants and farmhands were hired, were followed by "runaway mops". Servants unhappy with their new employers put themselves up for hire again and hoped for the best.

"In the early 19th century, fairs were seen as places for whorehouses and drunkards," says Dr Toulmin. "But by the

with it, can't be recaptured once they're gone," says Dr Toulmin. "You can preserve a fairground ride but you can't pickle the showman. Showpeople are seen as living on the margins of the society."

"I think there's sometimes a suspicion on both sides — from puniers and showpeople — so we want to broaden people's understanding."

Back with political incorrectness, she recalls the boxing booth owner who exhibited his daughter fighting bears, and the story of Annie Holland and the Fox Boy of Pockham.

"Annie had three children, one of them very fat — 40 stone. A friend said to her: 'You should exhibit this ere fat boy; you could make a lot of money.' So she took him round village halls and fairs and one year at Nottingham Goose Fair, he met the Lion-faced Lady. They got married and lived happily ever after."

The Lion-faced Lady? "Facial hair, I suppose. One up from a Bearded Lady."

With computer games and high-tech rides, fairs have certainly changed since those days, but the weird and wonderful stories of its freak-show past will long live on.

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

Newcastle Town Moor Fair
June 26-July 5, Europe's biggest acreage fair (01388 813856)

Hill Fair
1 October 9-17, Britain's biggest week-long fair, 13th century origins (01132 853341)

St Helens Show and Fair
July 30-August 2, held in Sherrill Park with circus and bands (01104 822687)

Nottingham Goose Fair
September 31-October 3, dates back to 13th century (01159 703808)

Ilkeston Charter Fair
October 22-24 (01159 703808)

Loughborough Pleasure Fair
November 12-14 (0121 444 1363)

Stratford-upon-Avon Mop Fair
October 11-12, originally a hiring fair for servants (0121 444 1363)

Cardiff Big Weekend
August 7-9, new city centre fair with lots of music (01696 783222)

Oxford St Giles Fair
September 7-8, one of the oldest British fairs (01784 454780)

Source: National Fairground Archive (0114 222 7231)

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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

FLYING OFF THE SHELF



South Africa (Insight Guide £16.99)
This guide tries hard to capture the eclectic mix of races and cultures that make up the Rainbow Nation — and has stunning photography. The travel tips directory at the back has information on visas and accommodation.

Southern Africa on the Wild Side (Cadogan, £15.99)
Africa expert Rupert Isaacson offers an overwhelming range of fixes for the adrenalin addict. Historical, cultural and ecological background is included with the best places for ballooning, white water rafting, sky diving, hunting with Bushmen and kloofing (leaping free-style into pools from overhanging cliffs).

The Vegan Travel Guide: UK and Southern Ireland (The Vegan Society £4.95)
Vegans and vegetarians have been waiting for this guide since the last edition in 1983. Recommendations include the type and format (take-away/snacks/restaurant) of food, the numbers of rooms and prices. Lists of vegan (food criteria and animal derivatives) makes this a useful reference for vegans, travelling or not. For non-meat eaters heading south, the *Vival Guide to Vegetarian Brighton (Vival! £2.99)* offers local options.



The Great British Festival Guide (Summersdale £9.99)
Yet further proof of British eccentricity: covering more than 500 festivals during the next year, this guide will take you to the Castleton Ancient Garland Ceremony, Celebrity Connections near Canterbury or more famous events such as Glastonbury and Notting Hill Carnival. Listed by location, the guide gives the history of each festival and ticket information.

Bahamas, Turks & Caicos (Lonely Planet £11.99)
Offering a broad look at the islands, this guide gives advice on transport and accommodation for travellers arriving by luxury liner or freighter. Highlights include major dive and snorkel sites, tips for the environmentally conscious travellers and hints for keeping your cool when gambling, most memorably: "Remember you are playing a game. It is for pleasure."



French Bed & Breakfast: Alastair Sawday's Special Places to Stay (Alastair Sawday Publishing £12.95)
With an emphasis on independent and individual accommodation, this guide gives personalised recommendations on fairytale chateaux in the Dordogne or farmhouses in Picardy.

JOANNA HUNTER

Closing down

THE Indonesian tourist board will close its London office on July 1, a victim of the financial crisis engulfing the country, writes Joanna Hunter.
Afr Passaribu, director of the London office, said that the office's budget had been withdrawn. Six other Indonesian tourist boards around the world will also close.
More than five million tourists visited Indonesia last year — just under 200,000 were estimated to be British. This year numbers have fallen due to reports of smog and political instability. "It's a strange decision and a disappointment," said Raj Kumar, managing director of Destination Far East, which offers tailor-made trips to Indonesia.
The Indonesian Embassy will be handling tourists' queries from July 1 (0171-499 7661).

Death prompts call for improved safety, writes Tom Chesshyre



A scuba diver is dwarfed by a six-foot long giant wrasse seen while diving on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia

Scuba divers warned

HOLIDAYMAKERS who go scuba diving on Australia's Great Barrier Reef are being warned to ensure instructors are fully qualified and that safety precautions are in place, after a British woman drowned there this week.
Rowena Sines, who emigrated to Australia from the Isle of Wight 13 years ago, vanished after being caught by a current on Wilson Reef, 230 miles north of Cairns. She was the fifth person to die while scuba diving off Queensland this year.
Mystery also still surrounds exactly what happened to an American couple — Tom Lonergan, 33, and his wife Eileen, 28 — who disappeared while scuba diving off

the Great Barrier Reef last January.
In 1997, 17 people died while diving in the UK; worldwide figures are not kept. The British Hyperbaric Association — which collects data on diving accidents — said travellers should always check companies are registered with either the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, the British Sub-Aqua Club or an equivalent foreign body (see members below).
Dr Peter Benton, who analyses BHA data, added that people should also use their common sense to see whether diving centres look well-maintained. "Tatty, scruffy buildings are a giveaway," he said, "even if the centre claims to be registered with one of the main bodies it could well be that it has not been checked for a long time. If that is so, its training levels and maintenance may well have slipped."
Regal Holidays sends about 6,000 people a year on diving holidays (mainly in the Red Sea) and claims all its instructors and diving centres are recognised by PADI. Its boats take medical sets, oxygen back-up canisters (in case a diver surfaces too quickly and gets decompression sickness) as well as marine radios (to contact the coast guard in emergencies).
A spokeswoman said: "Most problems with our clients have occurred when macho people go down too deep and then come up too quickly."
Bob Boler, diving officer at BSAC, which has 55,000 members worldwide, said: "Obviously it's terrible to hear about the woman dying in Australia, but if you look at the sport overall it is statistically very safe."
Safety tips:
1. Check the diving school or centre is recognised by either BSAC (0500 947202) or PADI (0117 971 1717).
2. Never dive alone.
3. Know your limitations.
4. Don't drink or smoke the night before.
5. Ensure equipment is well-maintained.
6. Don't dive on the day before flying home.

A pricey connection

Prime Ministers — they are just like buses. (Or, in this case, trains.) You wait for ages, then two show up at once.
Well, a Prime Minister and a Deputy, at least. At the official launch last Tuesday of the Heathrow Express, the new rail link between Paddington Station and the airport, we were treated to speeches from Tony Blair and John Prescott.
They were quite rightly enthusiastic about the new, 15-minute connection — indeed, a

TRIP WIRES



by Cath Urquhart
TRAVEL EDITOR

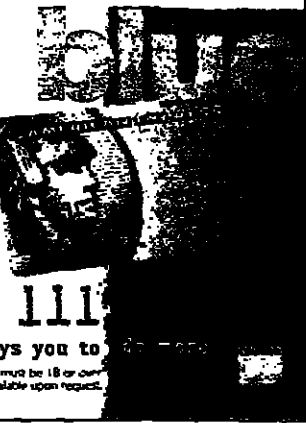
breathless voice told waiting journalists over the video link that the prime ministerial service had taken just 13 minutes — for the trains are brand new, clean and comfortable, and you bucket along through the less beautiful parts of west London at up to 100mph. Apparently the service will remove 3,000 cars from the roads around Heathrow each day, which sounds like good news, although I reckon they should have kept that fact quiet. Knowing our love affair with the car, I suspect that at least 3,000 other drivers, hoping the roads will be empty, will take to their cars immediately.
But between the congratulatory speeches and the champagne reception, several issues were ignored. Firstly, the fare: the Heathrow Express costs £10 each way, and £20 each way in first class — it is on top of the cost of your transport to Paddington. Sharing a taxi is cheaper.
However, the fundamental problem for many of us is that the Heathrow Express starts and finishes at Paddington, one of the least central of London's major stations. Most travellers will then have to make a further journey by Tube into central London.
On Tuesday, Tony Blair said the new link "will transform people's first impressions of London. We do not want their first impressions to be the worst aspects of Tube travel."
When I came back to Paddington, I headed for the Tube to find the ticket hall had been moved due to construction work. I then faced a 14-minute wait for the next Central Line train. Sadly, the Heathrow Express may simply mean travellers have to wait a further 15 minutes to see London at its worst.

Sharing the perks

THOMSON Travel Group — Britain's largest tour operator — this week announced further details of the travel perks it will be offering people who bought shares in its flotation in May, following criticism that it had been keeping investors in the dark, writes Tom Chesshyre.
Members of Thomson's Founders' Club will receive 10 per cent reductions on some pre-bookable extras on Thomson and Skytours holidays, including guaranteed seats and extra leg room on flights and taxi transfers from airports. These benefits come in addition to those previously announced — members will be eligible for 10 per cent off prices of Thomson and Skytours holidays from May 1, 1999 and most Holiday Cottages breaks from September 1, 1998. They will get more baggage allowance on Britannia flights, rising from 20kg to 30kg.
Thomson had been criticised for not being clear about the benefits of the Club, which has more than half a million members and was a major selling point in the high-profile flotation. Since then, shareholders have not been contacted directly about the reductions they will receive: information packs are being sent out this week and a direct booking line will open on Wednesday.
A spokesman for Thomson said: "The flotation was in May, we don't think it has taken too long to inform people."

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From Peking we fly to Shanghai for two nights at the 4-star Radisson SAS with a "dine around" allowance of \$15 dollars per person. In Shanghai are included a visit to the Yu Yuan Gardens, Jade Buddha Temple, Shanghai Art Museum, the Bund, Nanjing Road, dinner at a local restaurant followed by an acrobatic show.
From Shanghai we board the train and travel west to the 'Garden City' of Suzhou, staying two nights at the 4-star Ester Hotel on half board. During our stay visit two of the most famous gardens. On our second day in Suzhou take a three-hour cruise by launch along the Grand Canal to the 'silk' town of Wuxi returning by road in the evening to Suzhou. The following day return by road to Shanghai and fly



9 days from £795

to Peking in the morning and check-in once more at the Holiday Inn Lido Hotel. In the afternoon a visit is made to Tian An Men Square and the Forbidden City with a fare-

well Peking Duck banquet in the evening. The journey concludes with a return non-stop flight from Peking to Heathrow arriving later the same day.

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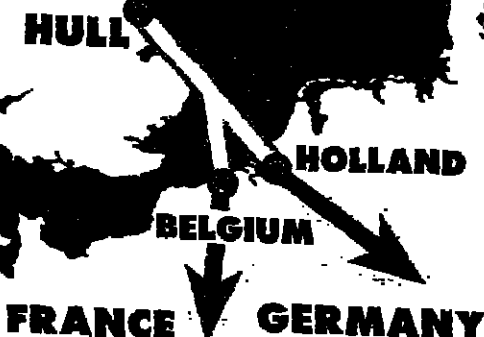
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TRAVELLER'S BULLETIN BOARD



"Cropies" fascinated by the phenomenon of crop circles will descend next month on Wiltshire, where unexplained shapes such as this one near Silbury Hill appear frequently

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



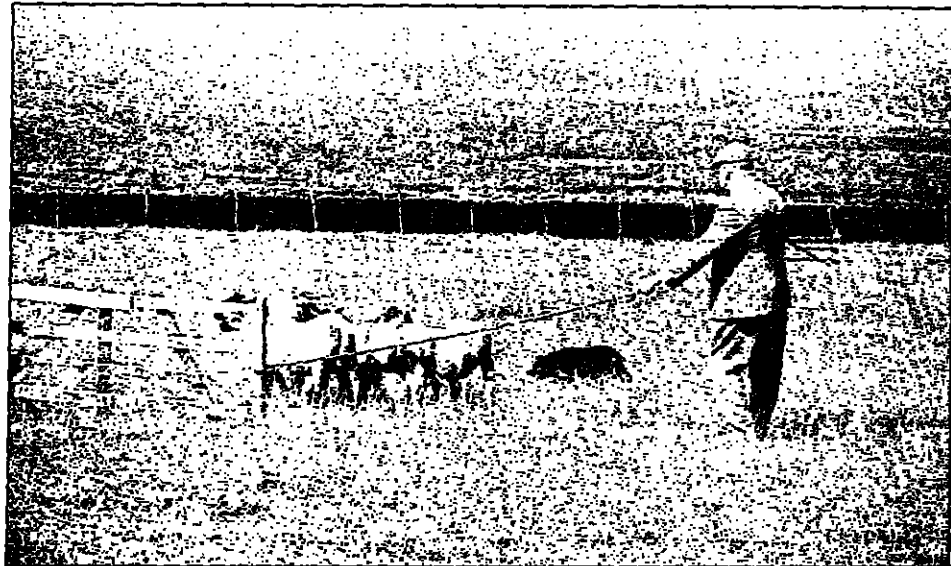
TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Crop in for mystery tour

THERE are currently 15 crop circles, mostly around 200 to 300 feet long, in Wiltshire, believed by "cropies" to be the crop circle capital of the world. Followers believe these geometric shapes are symbols that convey important messages to mankind. You can find out more on a Crop Circle Celebration Weekend on July 18-19 at Alton Barnes, near Pewsey, when international experts will discuss the phenomenon. There will be workshops and optional helicopter flights for aerial photography. The cost is £25 a day (£45 for two), and details are available

from Wiltshire Crop Circle Study Group (01380 860759). The Marlborough Tourist Information Centre (01672 513989) can provide information on crop circles, prehistoric sites and can book B&B accommodation from £25 per head for a double room.

IF YOU think you could do better than the England team, Sports Tours (01708 344000) organises matches abroad for adult and children's football teams from the UK to play against their counterparts in Europe. Travel is by coach, ferry or Eurotunnel; accommodation is often in theme parks such as the Davy Crockett Ranch at Disneyland Paris, and



Ever wanted to be a shepherd? Then try "The Sheep Dog Experience" in West Yorkshire

Dunreil Holiday Park in Holland. Prices are based on groups of 40; three nights costs £98 per person, based on 40 travelling, for coach travel, half-board accommodation and football arrangements.

En suite tents

NO more trekking half a mile across a damp field in the middle of the night to a concrete WC block: Canvas Holidays (01363 644000) has introduced the tent with loo. At its St Aygulf site in Provence, each tent comes en suite with its own permanent private shower, lavatory and washing-up sink.

High on Greece

"THE British have always had a love affair with the Alps, but completely ignore the mountains of northern Greece. Yet they're only an extension of the Alps, and almost untouched — with deep gorges and arched packhorse bridges, Byzantine monasteries and ancient stone houses," says the admittedly biased Suzi Sternbridge, who runs Flovevia (01422 375999), the Yorkshire-based company specialising in off-the-beaten track Greece.

Exec treks

To tempt time-conscious executives who want to have a ball in Nepal without roughing it, Himalayan Kingdoms (0117 923 7163) has introduced a 5-day Gentle Trekking and Luxury Lodges holiday. Visits to the Ghandruk Gurkha centre, to Kathmandu and Pokhara, the starting point for many Himalayan adventures, are included, as well as two days of rafting down the Seti river (on grade one rapids, the gentlest on the rafting scale). The tours cost £1,550-£1,660 for flights, accommodation and most meals.

around a simple obstacle course. Half-day courses cost £45, full days £78. A "Meet the Dogs" programme with demonstrations costs £15 for families and small groups. Longer breaks are also available with accommodation at local B&Bs, hotels and self-catering caravans.

IF you fancy being a shepherd for a day, the Mainline Border Collie Centre (01274 564163) at a working farm on the edge of Ilkley Moor in West Yorkshire is offering "The Sheep Dog Experience", half- and full-day courses learning to handle professional dogs. With the help of your new faithful friend, you can attempt to herd a small flock of sheep

"The exhibits have been arranged in a highly innovative way in both historical context and by theme, so that you can easily trace the development of Egyptian agriculture, religion, attitude to death and domestic life through the ages."

Prospect's two-night trips cost £235 to £250 for two nights' B&B at the Hotel Relais du Pré, return travel by Eurostar, a carnet of Metro tickets, one-day museum pass and half-day guided tour of the Louvre's Egyptian wing.

The 30-day Inter-Rail pass, which allows unlimited travel within 27 countries, now costs £259 for anyone 26 and under and £349 for anyone older. Shorter period passes are available depending on the zones in which you wish to travel. These passes can be bought from Campus Travel (0171-730 3402) or from mainline stations and rail shops. The Eurolines (0990 143219) pass is the alternative by coach. A pass costing £199 or £249 allows those under 26 unlimited travel for 30 or 60 days respectively.

Travel articles published since January this year in The Times are available on our Internet site. See "Meet Recent" links on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

PACK YOUR BAGS

- VISIT Berlin — Germany's former and future capital — with Time Off (0990 846 3633). You can stay three nights for the price of two, B&B, at the Hardenburg Hotel from £286 per person, including return flights from Heathrow, transfers and taxes. Departs daily. Valid throughout July and August.
- LOOKING for the land of opportunity? Premier Holidays (01225 516688) has reduced its fly-drive packages to America. The "New England Sampler" tour, including return flights from Manchester, two nights' accommodation only in Boston, and one night each in Cape Cod, Springfield, Killington, White Mountains and Portland, is now £723 per person. "Indian Vistas" includes flights out of Manchester, car hire and accommodation in Los Angeles, Scottsdale, Williams, Monument Valley, Lake Powell and Bryce Canyon. The package costs £745 per person. Flights depart daily; taxes included.
- COUPLES only: Jetsave (01342 312033) has reduced the price of 14 nights' all-inclusive accommodation at Couples hotel in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, to £1,499 per person between July 1-10. Includes return flights from Heathrow or Gatwick, departing daily, transfers, UK departure taxes and water-skiing, scuba diving and green fees.
- IS London still the capital of cool? Find out for yourself with Sunvil UK (0181-252 9788). Two nights' B&B at the four-star Swallow International Hotel, Kensington, is £99 per person. A "Three Palace Pass" combines entrance to the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace and Kensington Palace. The pass costs £25 per adult and £19 per child.
- HAYES and Jarvis (0181-222 7800) is offering seven nights' half board at Southern Palms, south of Mombasa, Kenya, including return flights from Gatwick or Manchester (the latter has a £19 supplement), for £459 per person, including transfers and UK departure taxes. Departs July 5 and July 12.
- FIND out what inspired Rembrandt Amsterdam Travel Service (01992 456080) is offering three nights' B&B at the Novotel Hotel, Amster-

JOANNA HUNTER

FLIGHTS

Departures: Monday 29 June to Saturday July 4, 1998
Lowest available published fares for return travel.

London - Amsterdam	£58 KLM uk (ex-City/Stansted)	from £143 Transavia (ex-Gatwick)
Birmingham - Berlin	£109 BA	£398 BA
London - Copenhagen	from £100 Go (ex-Stansted)	£150 Go (ex-Stansted)
London - Edinburgh	£58 KLM uk (ex-City/Stansted)	from £158 KLM uk (ex-City/Stansted)
Edinburgh - Larnaca	£229 BA	£637 BA
London - Lisbon	from £102 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	£398 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)
London - Malaga	£155 Iberia (ex-Heathrow)	£604 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London - Paris	£58 KLM uk (ex-Stansted)	£238 KLM uk (ex-Stansted)
London - Rome	from £100 Go (ex-Stansted)	from £180 Go (ex-Stansted)
London - Verona	£189 BA (ex-Gatwick)	£454 BA (ex-Gatwick)

Flight telephone numbers
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Go 08456 054321
Iberia 0171-830 0011
KLM uk 0990 074074
Transavia 01293 596650

Notes:
* Fares with Go and Transavia include tax. Other fares shown exclude tax.
* Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest published flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
* Availability is not guaranteed.

TRAVELLERS TIP

WHEN you are not using your personal stereo on holiday, it's a good idea to turn the batteries the wrong way round so that if any of the buttons are pressed accidentally, the batteries are not used up. Also, be very careful if you take your personal stereo on the beach — if sand gets in, it can clog up the mechanisms. — Margi Sand, Slough, Berkshire

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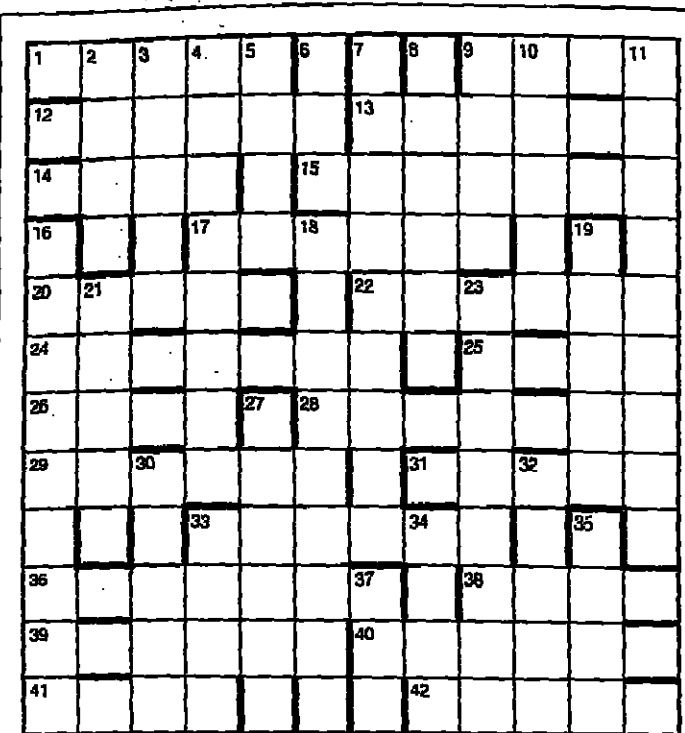
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LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3468 in association with Waterstone's

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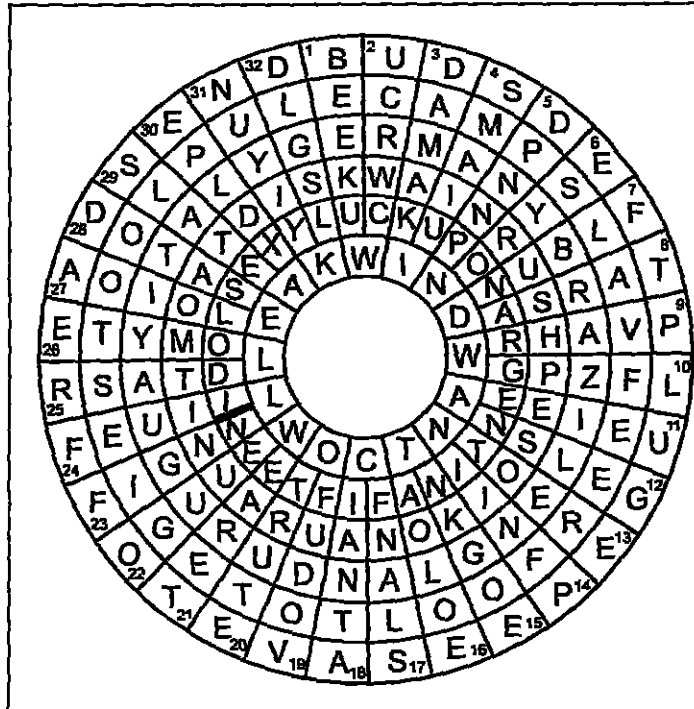
RICHARD III (Mis) Quotations are either cryptic or plain definition clues. Where Across clues are paired, they are in the correct order, with no overlapping. 23 may be deduced as defined as following 11 & 16, and an Across on each line is appropriately treated (1,54-55). Three further Acrosses and six Downs may be considered as Richards (second and first words of 1,1,20). Numbers after clues indicate the length of grid entries.

DOWN

- 2/3 "Now is the winter ... (4,5)
5 ... of our discontent made ... (4)
7 ... glorious summer by this ... (9, two words)
9 ... son of York" (4)
4 What surgeon uses as drastic cure having to cut internally? (8)
6 Shakespeare's blow — (to the head?) — has Prince spinning (3)
8 These fish may be seen to be cut up in the middle of kitchen etc, slimy (6)
10 Gather — for a service? (5)
11 Prophecies for snouts, say? (9)
16 Dreams of American standing in for one in Illinois, possibly (9)
18 Went back and bought another round? (9)
19 "I'll give you oil" — Constable (painter)? (5)
21 First one born — senior among females (5)
27 Short work by Shakespeare? A little piece appearing on a telly, weakly? (6)
30 Verily wrinkle dress uniform (5)
32 People obtain ones in new fashion (5)
33 Spotted fish as said, exemplary (4)
34 Woman, see, with power to trap a male? (4)
35 Man about Henry the younger?
37 "The King's name is a tower of strength" (3)

ACROSS

- 1/9 Injuries women had following a tar possibly in Paraguay group (5,4)
12/13 Trees, ones on Greek Island (hot), penned by merry wandering minstrel (6,6)
14/15 Goose eggs are heard turning to prevent a man's childish game (4,7)
17 Settle one in rare production (6)
20/22 Descriptive of calm water cover — ship's pulled in some crustacean, say, working Solent (5,6)
24/25 Disposal, right for dumping, terribly handled in a river forest (7,4)
26/28 Sloth ones have found acceptable taking r-rest right at start of sailing — engineers on board? (4,7)
29/31 They destroy twin ages the second one leaves — time and time again they cut water going over drops (6,5)
33 Holiday place one travels endlessly out to? (6)
36/38 Work too much round green fruit-juice, say, reversing poor obscurity (7,4)
39/40 Sharp rock it's unnecessary to lose ship on be it water ebbs no longer tame (6,6)
41/42 Bottom fish only have soft part, larval limb (4,5)



Solution and notes for No. 3465 World Cup 98 by Phil Brindall

The unclued rings give the six countries who have won previous World Cups in order of their first winning it:

- URUGUAY
ITALY
GERMANY
BRAZIL
ENGLAND
ARGENTINA

followed by the winner of this simulation, team FIFTEEN.

The winner is Mrs J. Wild, Sonning, nr. Reading, Berks.

The runners up are: Adrian Payne, Carshalton, Surrey; Miss D. Frances Mitne, Shepton Mallet, Somerset; P. Middlewick, West Molesey, Surrey; Stephanie Perks, Claverton, Wiltshire; J. Harrington, Weybridge, Surrey.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IN DUPLICATE BRIDGE, the declarer nominates the card he wants played from dummy, rather than playing it himself. If he calls for "a heart", dummy has to play the lowest heart. Some declarers abbreviate their request further, just saying "heart" when they want the lowest card played. That is considered spivvy, rather like clicking your cards when drawing them out of your hand, but it is within the rules.

When Piotr Gawrys and Bobby Richman met in the middle of the 1998 Generali world individual tournament, they were both up with the leaders. This hand concerned the above point.

Dealer West East-West game Pairs

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for West and East.

Contract: Six Spades by South Lead: the jack of clubs

North opened One Club and South (Gawrys) responded Two Spades. After North had rebid 2NT, South drove on to Six Spades after finding out that North held the ace of diamonds.

Justin Hackett led the jack of clubs to trick one, and Gawrys con-

ced, though there is a good case for ducking. Now Richman (East) had to shift to a diamond to beat the contract legitimately. However, he returned a heart, giving declarer a chance.

The winning line is to cross to dummy's queen of spades, take the king of hearts and run the trumps. That squeezes West in the minors.

But Gawrys assumed that, as East had failed to return a diamond at trick two, he must have the king. Thus his only hope was that the clubs broke 4-3. If West had the ten of spades, dummy's Q9 would provide the entries to establish the fifth club, and then he could draw trumps and finally enter dummy with the ace of diamonds to cash the club winner.

With the ten of spades offside, this line should fail, but when Gawrys took the trump finesse, he made the fine decision to play low from dummy by saying "spade", not "nine of spades." Well, it is true there are no indefinite articles in Polish, his native language. But when I put that to Patrick Jourdain, boss of the bridge writers' trade association, he replied tartly that even in Polish there must be words for "low" and "nine".

Richman followed low to the nine, obviously not expecting declarer to be finessing. But I am sure he would have played the ten if Gawrys had called for "the nine of spades".

Now Gawrys ruffed a club; when the suit failed to behave, he reverted to the squeeze line mentioned above and so made the contract.

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 30

HABARA (b) A woman's outdoor silk garment. "It is now generally made of white calico, but a similar covering of black silk for the married, and of white silk for the unmarried, is now worn by females of the higher and middle classes."

KORERO (b) Conversation. "The Korero would let the Maoris tell the pakehas what they couldn't so easily tell them in a setting shaped by European conventions."

NANT (b) A brook or valley in Wales. "A hill-road scrambles through orchards and vineyards and across dashing nantis

(mountain torrents) to a lofty ledge of pasture-land."

HALVA (b) A sweetmeat made of sesame and honey. "From the first time he tasted halva as a child, Ghulamali Rastegar was obsessed by the traditional Arabic sweetmeat made from honey."

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 36 Question 1 African studies: NAIROBI; Middle Eastern studies: BAHRAIN; Modern cartoon techniques: DAN BLAIR; Latin American studies: BUENOS AIRES. Question 2 Number A: 102564 Number B: 410256

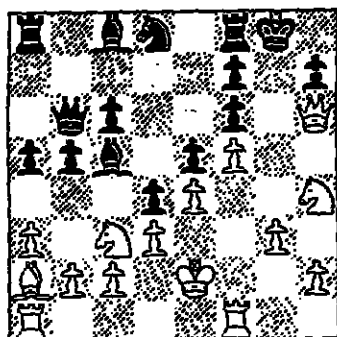
CHESS

by Raymond Keene

ON a regular basis I like to address the postbag from Times readers that deal with the knottiest and most difficult of the chess puzzles I set as the daily Winning Move. This week there are some particularly entrancing tactical points inviting further elucidation.

On Monday, April 13, I published the following position as a Winning Move. Black is to play and the position is from the game Timbers v Pandars, Latvia, 1998.

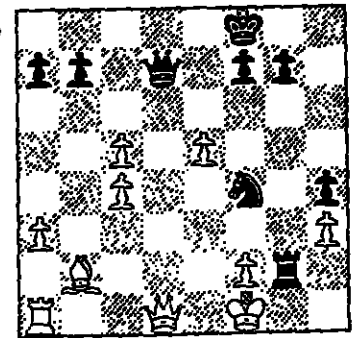
Black has a very good attack but is hampered by the counterattack on his own queen. If he continues actively with 1... Qxh3, White has back with 2 Qa8 mate. How did Black solve these problems?



Kenneth Mackay of Sutton Coldfield suggests that Black could retreat the queen with 1... Qa7, so that after 2 Nxc5 Qxc5, he threatens counterplay with ... Qxg2.

However, White would meet 1... Qa7 with 2 Rf4 and his attack again wins as in the game.

Finally, this week, I congratulate Graeme Oswald of Chester-le-Street for discovering a more efficient conclusion to a puzzle I published later in April. Here is the position:



Black to play. This position is from the game Bertram v Herfurth, Leipzig, 1998.

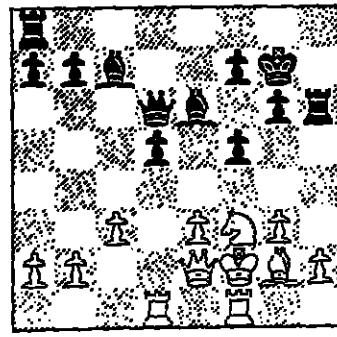
How did Black make maximum use of the open h-file?

The solution was 1... Rh2 2 Qb3 (2 Qxd7 Rh1 is mate) 2... Qd3+ 3 Qxd3 Rh1 checkmate.

Peter Wylie of Devon suggests that White can try to defend with 2 Kgl when 2... Rg2+ 3 Kfl only repeats the position. However, Black has 2... Rh1+! 3 Kxh1 Qxh3+ 4 Kgl Qg2 mate.

The previous week, another attacking position attracted your attention. Thursday, April 9, I gave this position from a university game contested in the 1920s.

White is to play and the position is from the game Alexander v Marshall, Cambridge 1928. White has a powerful attack but the obvious moves do not work. How does he proceed?



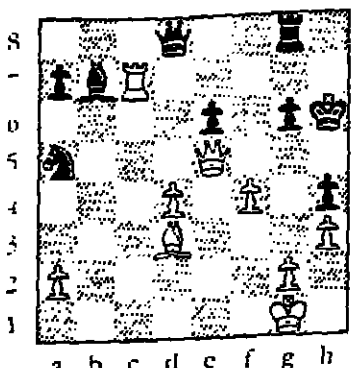
The solution given and played was: 1... Rh2! 2 Nxb2 Qxc3+ 3 Kgl Qxh2 and Black will win easily. Mr Oswald points out that instead of 4... Bg3+ winning the queen, Black has 4... Qh4+, which forces mate.

Please keep on sending in your queries. All comments are welcome, and the best will be printed in this column.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

WHITE to play. This position is from the game Djurhuus v Berg, Copenhagen, 1968. White has driv-



en the black king into a dangerous position. How did he now finish off?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers, on a postcard please, addressed to Winning Move competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 6NN. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 R6+

The winner is: E.R. Johnson of Willaston in Nantwich, Cheshire.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

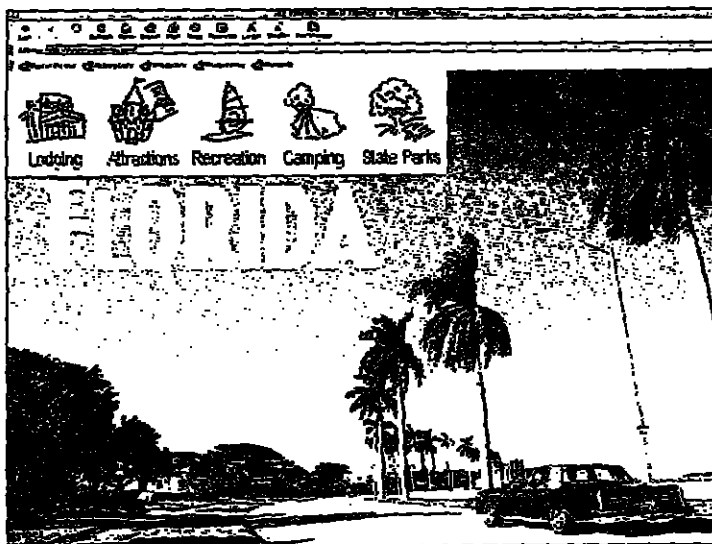
by Tim Wapshott

WHAT ONLY regular visitors to Florida used to know about holidaying there à la carte and on the cheap is now given away on the Internet. If you are touring on a budget there are several invaluable booklets which will help you.

Coupon books offer standard hotel accommodation but at discount prices. Armed with one of the coupons you can stay in clean and comfortable three- and four-star hotels — such as Ramada, Hilton, Holiday Inn and Howard Johnson — for about £15 or £20 each, based on two sharing.

The easiest way to get your hands on these booklets is to pick them up when you arrive in America, but if you hit the brochure websites first you can save time by finding out just where to look. For example, the Florida Exit Guide (http://www.exitguide.com) is A4 in size, runs to 160 pages and has a grass-green cover. You will find stacks of copies outside petrol stations or inside the door of restaurants such as McDonald's, Pizza Hut and Denny's. The summer booklet has 800 coupons.

The Exit Guide tells you what's ahead, exit by exit, on the interstate highways. As well as discount hotel deals, some coupons offer restaur-



Find out all you need to know about sunny Florida on its website

rant and attraction discounts, too. Exit Guides are available for of the north American states. Full details are available at the website.

The See Florida guide is regionalised, with separate editions for different parts of the state such as the Keys. Its website (http://www.see-florida.com) is slower but a little more comprehensive, offering an

accommodation search engine to call up hotels featured in the guide. Specific voucher prices are not shown but phone, fax and, where available, website details are given.

With both guides, the only condition stipulated is that you must mention the coupon when booking. Sometimes, but not always, you will also be asked for an actual cou-

pon. The guides are usually updated every couple of months.

CYBERSPACE FORTY THREE turned up a hotchpotch of answers. This was the competition giving 100 readers the chance to share in over £5,000 worth of Direct Connect annual trial six-month Internet accounts.

To coincide with the London company's tenth birthday celebrations, readers were invited to submit witty e-mail messages to a close friend on their birthday, in 15 words or less, using only the top and bottom lines of letters on the keyboard. "I wizz u wizzin time on your birty — beware time creepz up on you", was the greeting submitted by Mr I. Cameron, from Risley, near Warrington, Cheshire.

From Goole, north Yorkshire, Mr Daniel Oneill suggested: "U R twenty, C U in boozey twenty to nine. Prezzy time". Many messages alluded to celebrations in the local pub.

John Ellis of Beaconfield, Herts, suggested: "Pop into Rover Return prize boozey pub tonight. I buy you quite nice beer."

Mrs J. Wilson from Huyton, Liverpool, came up with: "I expect you to commence pub boozey up pronto,

cyberboy. Twenty one tomorrow." Mr D. Bindon of Dorchester, Dorset, submitted this entry: "O pretty nun, crown our meet in your pub come to me by even". Oxford's Nigel Birch came up with: "Twenty nine once more? No nipper, no teenybopper. I remember your prime", while Paul Fletcher in Cambridge countered: "Womb exit. You've been born twenty yerz. WOW."

David Woosnam in Caerphilly, South Wales, proposed: "Enjoy youzen. But try to enzoymeone zexy virza." Karen Lamb of Edgeware, Middlesex, offered us this: "Puberty no, but twenty two. So tomorrow I be nice to you".

John Lewis in London wrote: "Minor no more, in merry vein, empty your cup, your prime unrein." Mr D. Mason of Sothorn, Lincoln, suggested: "Eppy birty mite, zorry bout nonzence but queybort buzz ony rows Q n Z wercin". An early favourite of the judges was the entry from Chris Robson of Nottingham: "ppy birty — ope your new computer eybo-r wor-better (n-nine)".

Congratulations to all of the above winners, who each receive Direct Connect accounts. More winners next week.

NEW SOFTWARE



Spawn: The Eternal

BASED ON the immensely popular comic series, which has sold millions of copies, Spawn: The Eternal is an action adventure alive with the sound of fistcuffs. Instead of wasting your enemies with colossal weaponry, this is something of a punch fest.

You must guide the comic-book hero, Spawn, through three time periods over 18 levels. The graphics are fluid and efficient and, whenever you meet an enemy, the game kicks into battle mode. This has the feel and sound of a Street Fighter title.

The action begins in Hell's Orchard, the entry point into hell through which Spawn must explore four paths leading in different directions. He must punch his way to the Tower, then ascend it to take on his final enemy, Malebolgia. The game looks fine but Spawn remains a fairly ugly hero.

The bigger shortfall is the lack of rewards for skillful players as Spawn progresses through the game. The wooden crates to be found littering a corridor can be kicked open with a well-aimed heel but rarely do they contain anything. Although you do easily pick up mystical energy bonuses along the way, it is not so easy to understand just what special powers, if any, you are gaining. Verdict: 6 out of 10. Punch-drunk PlayStation action/adventure title. £34.99.

SLIP A Honda RVF-RC45 motorcycle between your legs and see how you fare in Interactive Entertainment's Castrol Honda Superbike. While several decent bike racing games have come along in the past 12 months, this is possibly the first to take the genre more seriously.

Here, the emphasis is on the correct handling of such a powerful bike. Now, when you head into a sharp bend at a very high speed you can easily come a cropper. This mean machine responds to your handling much more in the way a real bike might, which makes it a more challenging, and thrilling, test of your skills.

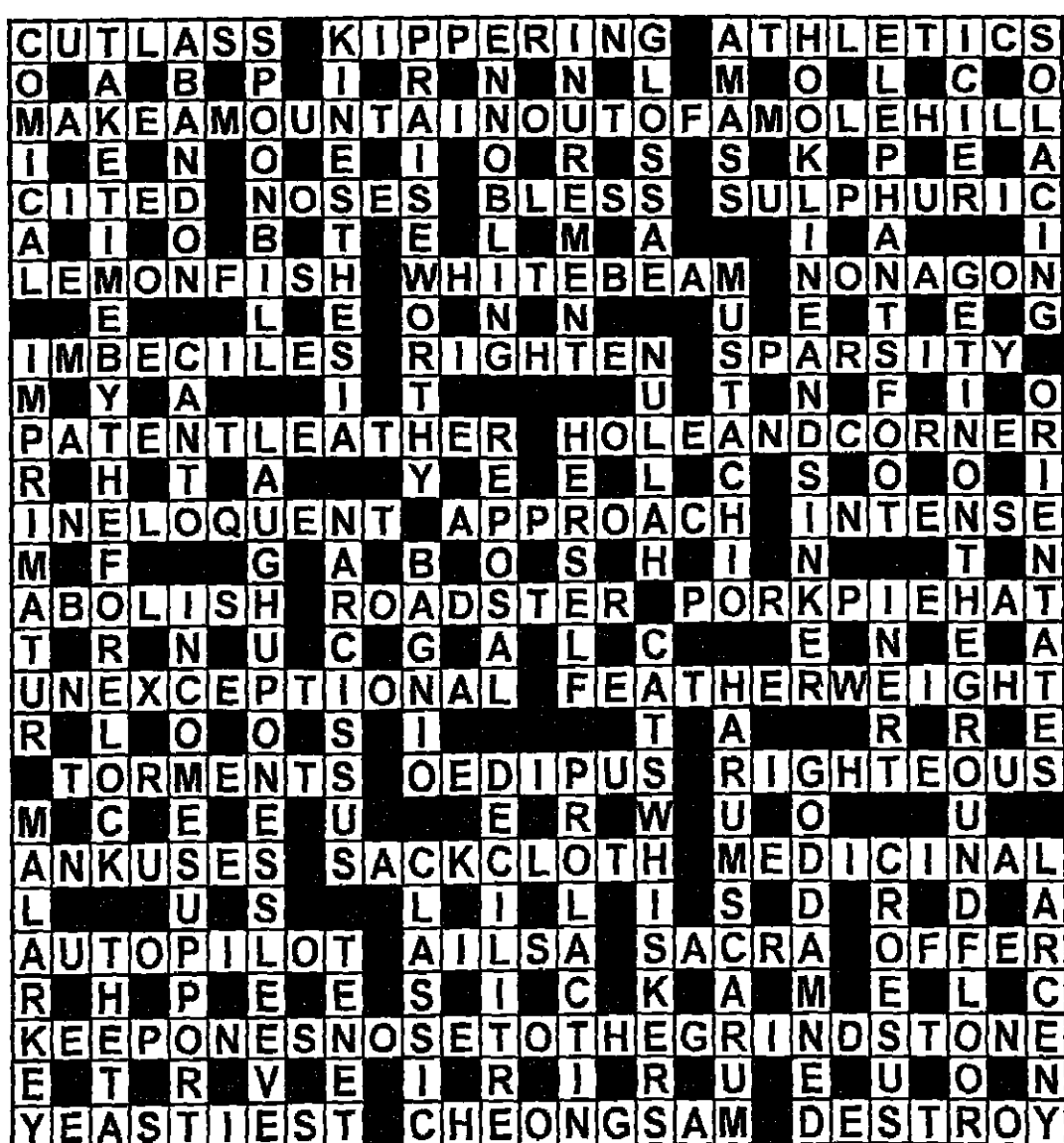
Once you have mastered the basics in trainer mode you can test your new-found biker skills on the test oval.

There are 10 fictional courses to race, against up to 23 other bikes. Half see you screaming around bends in built-up areas, the other are more familiar-looking race tracks. The game has a split-screen mode so two people can race each other on one PC.

This is a worthy stab at the biking world although it lacks some of the pokey urgency of the arcade-style versions, such as Moto Racer. Nor does it measure up to other titles for dazzling crash sequences, although the grainy quality of the scenery graphics are unexpectedly appealing.

Verdict: 7 out of 10. Meaty motorcycle simulation — balance is power. £34.99.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 171



The winner of five Oxford University Press reference books is R.J.C. Watt of Weston Park, Bath

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q I recently spent a few days in a country house and was surprised to notice many of the guests reading newspapers at breakfast. My father always insisted that it was impolite to read at the meal table. Have I been missing opportunities over the years? — Mrs Eve Fleming, Warwick

A Although reading at the table at any other time of the day is considered bad-mannered, breakfast, particularly over a weekend, is one occasion when the polite guest does not have to sing for his supper — quite the opposite.

Q My wife and I have been invited to a friend's wedding and reception, but our children (aged two and four) have not. To enable us to go, we will have to be away two nights. While accepting that this is their special day, we feel unable to go without taking our children. Would it be impolite to reply, saying "We very much look forward to coming to the wedding, but as we are unable to find anyone to look after our children, we will not be able to come to the reception?" — Name and address withheld

A It most certainly would be. If the bride and groom were able to accommodate children, they would make it known. It would be unkind of you to impose your wishes and to make them feel guilty at an already stressful and busy time. You must decide which is more important to you: sharing their big day, or spending it with the children as usual. They have paid you the honour of inviting you to their wedding; surely you can repay the compliment by organising child care?

Q Should widows continue wearing their wedding rings? I have continued to do so, but when in the company of male friends, strangers have sometimes assumed that we are married. Would it be suitable to wear the ring on my right hand? What about the niceties of signalling availability/unavailability to potential male friends? — Name and address withheld

A No, it would not be suitable for you to wear your wedding ring on your right hand, as this could be interpreted as your being committed to Christ in a relationship analogous to marriage, such as belonging to a religious order. I am sure this is not quite the sentiment that you are trying to convey. As far as giving the green, red or even amber light to men, there are far more subtle ways to do this rather than the artful sporting of irony.

Q Having just returned from a holiday in the Channel Islands, where my friends and I enjoyed the delights of several after-

noon cream teas, we found ourselves in a dilemma: in the absence of butter, does one spread the cream or jam first on the scone, and if one were to be given butter as well, would this alter the situation? — Ms A. Brook, Bristol

A The butter-free scone is first dabbed with jam and then dolloped with the cream. Committed cholesterol fans who also use butter should apply it before the jam.

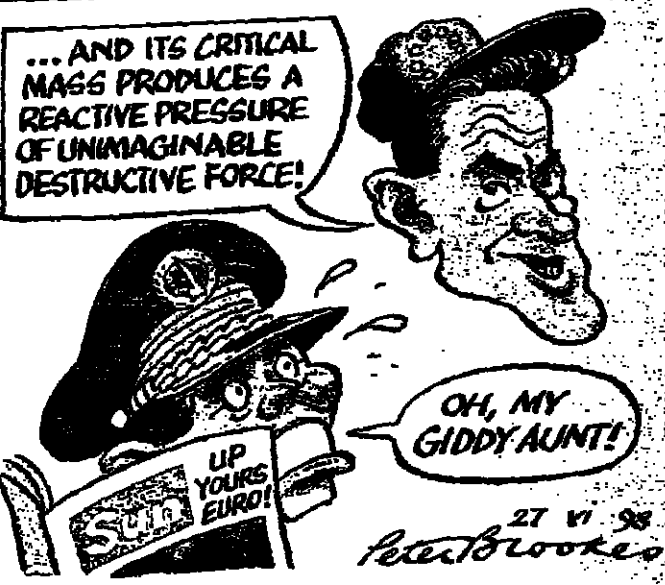
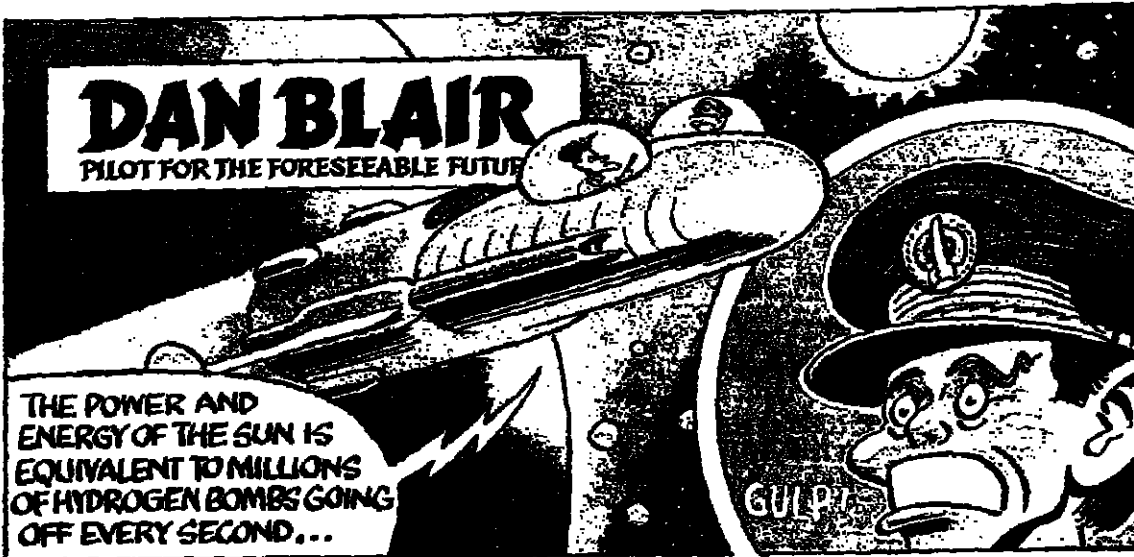
Q A lady cousin lives with, and has young children by, a wealthy and charming Arab gentleman, long resident in this country. The "consort" has a habit of kissing my 13-year-old son upon arrival and departure. My son does not seem to mind, but he is about to enter a major public school, where my cousin's father, brother and I were educated. The intention, I believe, is for their own son to join the same house at this school and this is likely to entail visits and further kissing. Are you against the idea of this kissing and, if so, how would you set about tactfully bringing it to an end? — Name and address withheld

A I am not. Times have changed since Winston Churchill kissed his old nanny at Harrow and one of his fellow schoolboys opined, "That is one of the bravest things I have ever seen." Today's fathers aim to be loved, rather than feared and respected, and many of our top schools have become so international that children are increasingly sophisticated about foreign customs.

Q Recently, while staying at my home in southwest France, I was invited to a supper party with English friends. Since my house does not have running water or electricity, I asked my hosts upon arrival whether I could use their shower. On drawing back the shower curtain, I found my host's underpants and bra hanging from the shower. My quandary is this: should I have replaced the bra and pants after my shower in exactly the same position as I found them, or should I have left them on the heated towel rail? I do not know my hosts well enough to feel that I could discuss the matter, but at the same time I did not wish to cause offence. In the event, I replaced them as I found them. — RDS Polley, BFPO 40

A You did the right thing. Minor embarrassments should always be glossed over gracefully. Furthermore, as no doubt your host's underclothes contained elastic, had you put them on the hot rail you might have run the risk of bringing a whole new meaning to the word "smalls".

John Morgan is associate editor of CQ



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

HABARA
a. A board game
b. A silk cloak
c. A type of syllogism

KORERO
a. A Korean foot boxer
b. Talk, chitchat
c. An Indonesian zither

NANT
a. A swimming ant
b. A brook or valley
c. A prayer bell

HALVA
a. A gambling game
b. Honey pudding
c. An Islamic butcher

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

"MY experience, in both government and industry, has demonstrated to me that those who are mind sports enthusiasts bring a special dimension of intellectual acumen and competitive drive to their professional activities" — Sir Brian Tovey, former Director General of GCHQ

Question 1
At the Brain-free Local Association meeting, they once again muddled up the signs for their lecture topics: African studies, Middle Eastern studies, Modern cartoon techniques and Latin American studies. Can you help? Q1 BRAIN, A1 BRAIN, AD1 BRAIN, USE BRAIN SOE

Question 2
Number A is of indeterminate length but ends in 4. Number B has the same digits as A in the same order, except that it starts with the 4 instead of ending with it. It is also 4 times the size of A. Using this information, can you work out the shortest possible numbers for filling all the criteria?

Answers on page 35

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

The second Crossword Championship, in 1971, was won by James Atkins, a professional singer. He attributed his success to "practice and a ragbag of a mind that stores away completely unrelated bits of fact".

Until his next triumph in 1976, the title was monopolised by the remarkable John Sykes, who went on to win ten championships, and would undoubtedly have won more if he had not restricted his appearances.

John Sykes was a lexicographer and a polymath. His obituary in 1993 relates how, as a physicist attending a meeting with Russian scientists, finding that a key paper had not been translated into Russian, he produced his own translation overnight.

comes a flood, I may find myself explaining a devious clue, causing a ruling on a possible alternative answer.

Though it is very rare for such a claim to succeed, there was the famous case at York when Edmund Ackenshead was discredited "Erik" until the sign for "Erik's Bar" down the corridor was pointed out to him. The editor also has the pleasure of handing out the prizes. Next week I will describe my experiences when I was invited to fulfil this function at the 1996 American Crossword Puzzle Tournament.

The writer is crossword editor of The Times

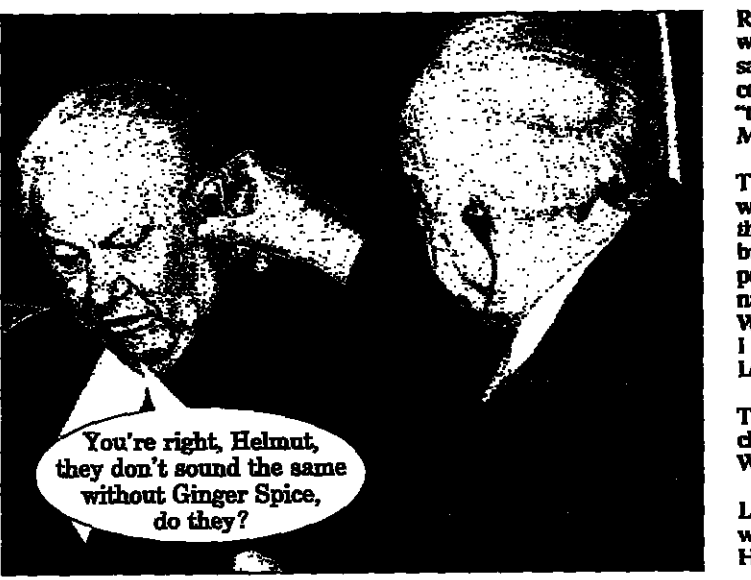
PICTURE LINE

READERS are invited to suggest what Tony Blair might have been saying as he stood among construction workers during the "topping out" ceremony at the Millennium Dome.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted. Send "speech bubble" suggestions — on postcards only, please — with your name and address to: PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, July 8.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Anthony Hewitson of Bolton.



"That wasn't hooliganism, it was terrorism." — German football federation boss after French police identified 614 German neo-Nazis in Lens

"There's only one team that is going to win now, and that is England" — Kevin Keegan just before Romania scored the winning goal

"If the parents didn't do it, who did?" — Au-pair Louise Woodward in TV interview

"The law should not put police into bedrooms nor coerce gay men to be heterosexual" — Ann Keen MP in favour of lowering age of consent for homosexuals to 16

"There is a wave of homosexual triumphalism sweeping the country" — Richard Littlejohn in The Sun

"Is this the most dangerous man in Britain?" — The Sun warns that Tony Blair is in favour of the European single currency



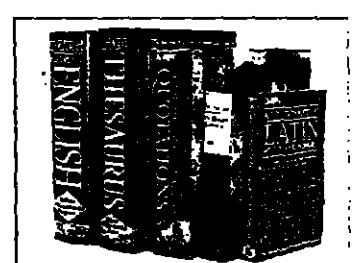
"Jonathan Dimbleby was the worst prepared popinjay of a reporter I have ever encountered" — Camille Paglia after storming out of an interview

"This is the Judy Garland of the 100 metres" — Former armed robber John McVicar, in court, to defend Linford Christie's action against him.

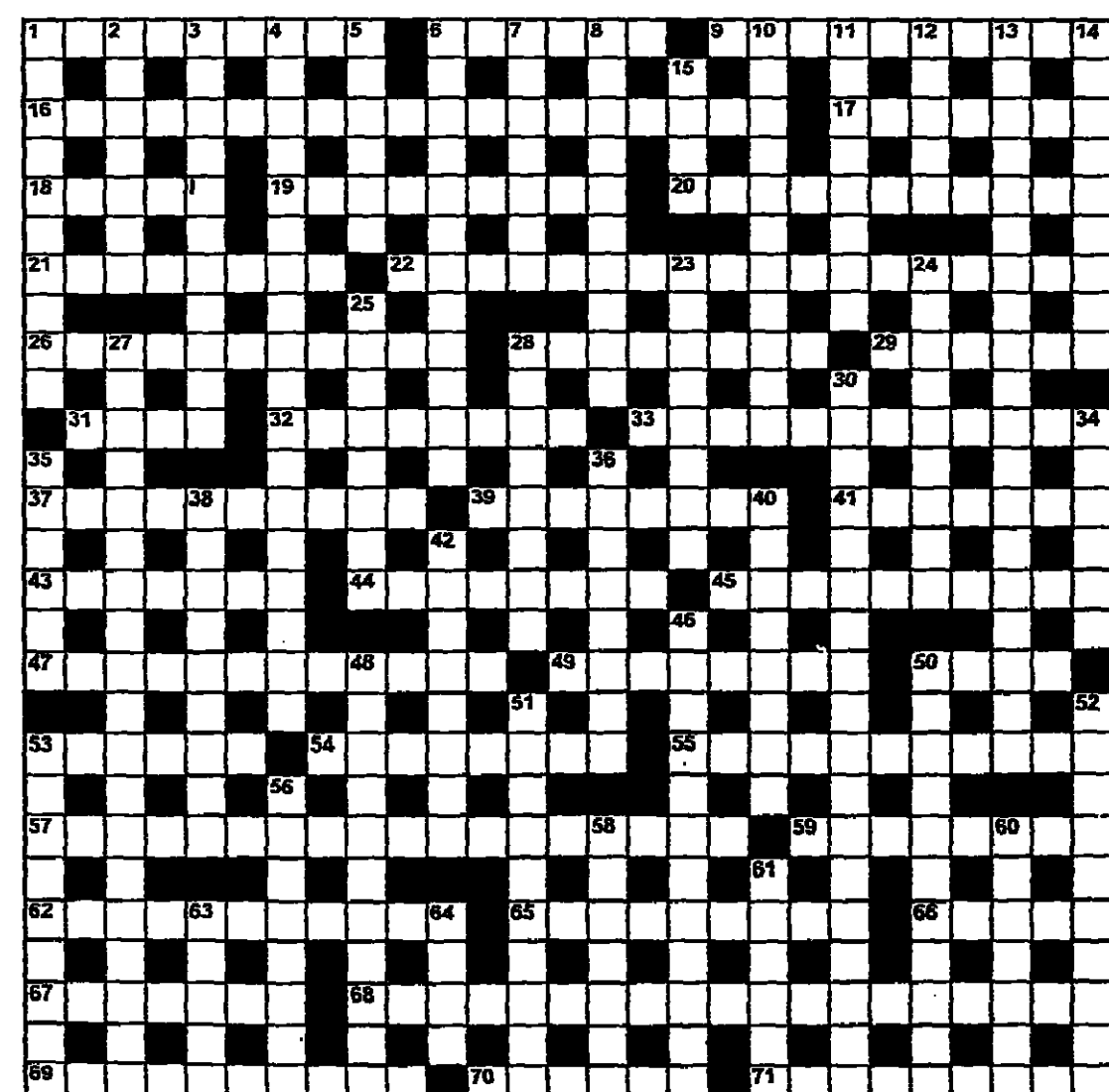
"To pretend somebody said something when they were supposedly dying? It's monstrous, isn't it?" — Earl Spencer contests Mohamed Al Fayed's account of Diana's last words

"It is well known that many media figures enjoy it" — Naturlist Foundation, hosting a kit-off edition of Gardeners' Question Time

JUMBO CROSSWORD 173



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are The Oxford English Reference Dictionary and The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 173, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, July 9. The name of the winner will be published on July 11.



NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

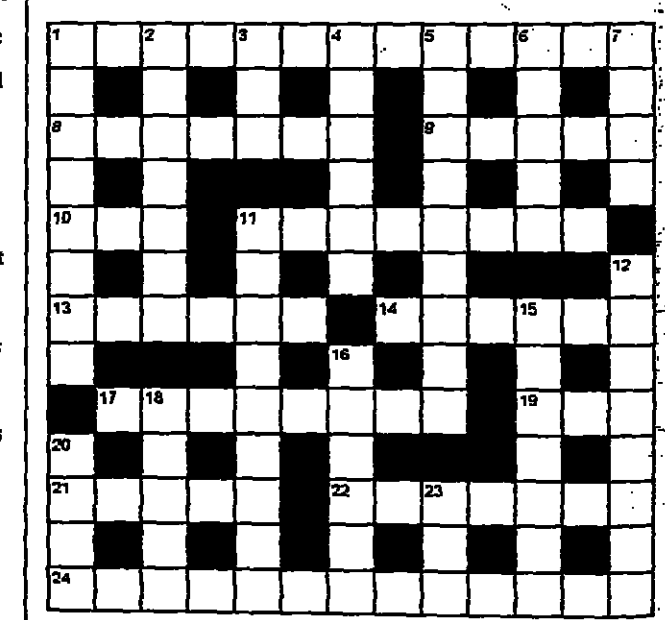
ACROSS

- 1 Impudent, unlike 60 (9)
- 6 Smoke, being in a state, and fill a glass perhaps (6)
- 9 Expertise essential to player's performance (10)
- 16 Hero's just good friends with heroine in such scenes (4,3,5,7)
- 17 Leonard Muslin is in film about old left (7)
- 18 The inception of an attempt to embarrass (5)
- 19 One railed at the way urban Americans travel (9)
- 20 Fancy ancient name for 35 (11)
- 21 As US tourist has it, messy thick chips are served in Scots town (8)
- 22 Testing occupation for physicists? (4-3-6-5)
- 26 About E1? Hard to believe that's given admission to front of house here (7,4)
- 28 As quickly as possible, becoming lean — plump at first (4,4)
- 29 Force industrialist to reveal contents for dyestuff (6)
- 31 Deserving of love? Get married! (4)
- 32 Bingo call — "blind fifty" missing for "house" (3,5)
- 33 District rich with US-earned cash — showing talent without class, hard to get in (7,5)
- 37 Usually, actor's left punctually with other players (6,4)
- 39 Flaunt fee, almost turning out rich (8)
- 41 Prompt needed shortly after first act (5,2)
- 43 Some take a siesta, to be most relaxed (7)
- 44 Teenager carries weapon in seaside town (8)
- 45 Information no longer available for outing? (4,6)
- 47 Scheme with old inmate, and look out for type of lens (12)
- 49 Swallow extremes of earnest authoritarianism — from me? (8)
- 50 Groove with the revellers? (4)
- 53 Take a stroll, for example, round the wood (6)
- 54 One left out of French XV suggesting hand of piquet? (8)
- 55 One may spark off tale about exotic land (5,6)
- 57 Studying data — on the Red Arrows? (11,7)
- 59 Change the frequency of a motorcycle race (8)
- 62 Golf's what he plays to represent the country (4,3,4)
- 65 One supporting established trade, in spirit (9)
- 66 I seriously injure back in US tourist area (5)
- 67 Turning out a paper tiger, perhaps? (7)
- 68 Accepted irrevocable events flowing from banks' link-up? (5,3,6)
- 69 European currency includes a new type of coin for part of the UK (10)
- 70 Knowing about loose term for community's being woolly (6)
- 71 Great praise, having got old lunar module into space (9)

DOWN

- 1 Fish and meat taken after port (6,4)
- 2 Take back mouldy éclair and start to moan (7)
- 3 Exploit woman's boss — someone forgetful (7-4)
- 4 Sharing ideas? This process could create new strain (5-13)
- 5 Get off with post girl on old messenger activity (9)
- 6 One seen in a 'lurvy-land' performance? (12)
- 7 Seriously criticise a revolutionary's confident style (7)
- 8 Band, up to touring years without flagging (10)
- 10 A little gale fluttering tasteful ribbons? (11)
- 11 Point out sticky stuff on top — it's common sense (8)
- 12 Entertainer initially capitalising on vulgar note? (5)
- 13 Exploit 16? Reason — it promotes youthful activity (9,10)
- 14 Very neat translation, encapsulating Latin historian (9)
- 15 Steadfast, showing concern (4)
- 23 Was the source of further debate, primarily about article (9)
- 24 Extra fee paid daily, during increase activity (9)
- 25 Jack got over rising urge to interrupt affected lady in a sharply pointed way (8)
- 27 Proposed original ideas involving reactionary movement (7,4,2,6)
- 28 Go mad over failure to produce casual footwear (4-4)
- 30 The power of justify a "C" — in the first case, quotes missing (11,7)
- 34 Share in decision about fool's mental health (6)
- 35 Continue to support increased running costs (6)
- 36 Unqualified victory for live-in companion (8)
- 38 Use parrot to demonstrate motion of this extinct creature? (9)
- 40 Bay, perhaps, coming in to my study of place-names (8)
- 42 Quantum jump in voting to admit academician (8)
- 46 Diligently supporting a dry run, in a fascinating manner? (12)
- 48 Dog heard loudly, then not so loud, given thick ear! (11)
- 50 Breed type of butterfly — one ranked important overseas? (4,7)
- 51 Larrup and, furious about manner of performance (10)
- 52 Doing good, reformed fence I met in dishonest circumstances (10)
- 53 European bread or cake (5,4)
- 56 Halt search — there's a catch (4,4)
- 58 Basic quality of 65's product, perhaps? (7)
- 60 Carry the stamp of W.G. Grace, for example (7)
- 61 Goose male in dress (6)
- 63 Artist holding up Italian aunt's jewellery (5)
- 64 Entrance all those in attendance (9)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1431

- ACROSS
1 You're doing just what we need! (5,3,5)
8 One in on secrets (7)
9 Name tag (5)
10 (A vote) against; study (3)
11 Yukon gold-rush area, river (8)
13 Secret, mysterious (6)
14 Socially inept (6)
17 Makes appear by magic (8)
19 (Wine, waste paper) receptacle (3)
21 Panic warning signal (5)
22 To the centre (7)
24 Helpful passer-by (Luke 10) (4,9)
- DOWN
1 Man's formal evening top (4,4)
2 Element 33; a rat poison (7)
3 A small investor (5)
4 Fear, repulsion; genre of story, film (6)
5 (Cleopatra's) naive youth (5,4)
6 One from Tashkent (5)
7 (One's) max. food intake (4)
11 Authorised (version of Bible) (4,5)
12 Poet Laureate, lived on 10W. (8)
15 After-dinner entertainment (7)
16 Self-evident remark (6)
18 Dunedin area (NZ) (5)
20 Explosion, door-slam sound (4)
23 Conflict; sounds like bad one (5)

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!
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